

Aruba Hi-Winds 'Pro-Am'



Pictured above: Minister of Health and Sports Dr. Richard Visser, who will launch the 25th Annual Aruba Hi-Winds tomorrow at the Fisherman's Huts just North of the Marriott Resort tomorrow night at 7PM. Everyone is invited to enjoy in the fun and entertainment with the opening ceremonies followed by live entertainment by the Rincon Boyz.

ORANJESTAD – Starting tomorrow, the Aruba Hi-Winds will celebrate its 25th anniversary. Hundreds of windsurfers and kiteboarders from around the world, amateurs and professionals, are invited to give their best in the exciting surf races and also to join the celebrations of the 25th edition.

World Champion Björn Dunkerbeck will arrive tomorrow evening on Aruba for the Hi-Winds. Event Coordinators Jarne Everts and Tom Vriens explain that Dunkerbeck may even join the amateur races. They expect about top professionals and over 150 amateurs. Chairman Wim Eelens: "We are really proud of our own Aruba Hi-Winds PWA World Tour Grand Slam event. " A big name, he admits, but organizing this exciting event gives him a lot of satisfaction. "This event is excellent marketing from and for Aruba." □

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Provoked



In this photo taken on a government-organized tour Libyans sit on top a truck as they rally in Green Square in Tripoli, Libya, on Friday, June 17, 2011. Provoked by renewed daylight NATO bombing of his capital, Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi raged against the alliance Friday, screaming his message and daring Western forces to keep it up. Gadhafi spoke in a telephone call that was piped through loudspeakers to a few thousand people demonstrating in Tripoli's Green Square, at the end of a day when NATO intensified bombing runs across the capital.

(AP Photo/Ivan Sekretarev)
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2 top lawyers lose argument on War Power

CHARLIE SAVAGE

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WASHINGTON – President Barack Obama rejected the views of top lawyers at the Pentagon and the Justice Department when he decided that he had the legal authority to continue U.S. military participation in the air war in Libya without congressional authorization, according to officials familiar with internal administration deliberations.

Jeh C. Johnson, the Pentagon general counsel, and Caroline D. Krass, the acting head of the Justice Department's Office of Legal Counsel, had told the White House that they believed that the U.S. military's activities in the NATO-led air war amounted to "hostilities." Under the War Powers Resolution, that would have required Obama to terminate or scale back the mission after May 20.

But Obama decided in-

stead to adopt the legal analysis of several other senior members of his legal team – including the White House counsel, Robert Bauer, and the State Department legal adviser, Harold H. Koh – who argued that the U.S. military's activi-

ties fell short of "hostilities." Under that view, Obama needed no permission from Congress to continue the mission unchanged.

Presidents have the legal authority to override the legal conclusions of the Office of Legal Counsel and

to act in a manner that is contrary to its advice, but it is extraordinarily rare for that to happen. Under normal circumstances, the office's interpretation of the law is legally binding on the executive branch.

A White House spokesman, Eric Schultz, said there had been "a full airing of views within the administration and a robust process" that led Obama to his view that the Libya campaign was not covered by a provision of the War Powers Resolution that requires presidents to halt unauthorized hostilities after 60 days.

"It should come as no surprise that there would be some disagreements, even within an administration, regarding the application of a statute that is nearly 40 years old to a unique and evolving conflict," Schultz said. "Those disagreements are ordinary and healthy."

Still, the disclosure that key

figures on the administration's legal team disagreed with Obama's legal view could fuel restiveness in Congress, where lawmakers from both parties this week strongly criticized the White House's contention that the president could continue the Libya campaign without their authorization because the campaign was not "hostilities."

The White House unveiled its interpretation of the War Powers Resolution in a package about Libya it sent to Congress late Wednesday. On Thursday, the House speaker, John A. Boehner, Republican of Ohio, demanded to know whether the Office of Legal Counsel had agreed.

"The administration gave its opinion on the War Powers Resolution, but it didn't answer the questions in my letter as to whether the Office of Legal Counsel agrees with them," he said. □



A Libyan rebel fires a rocket propelled grenade launcher towards pro-Moammar Gadhafi forces on the front line of Dafniya in Misrata, Libya, Friday, June 17, 2011. Provoked by renewed daylight NATO bombing of his capital, Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi raged against the alliance Friday, screaming his message and daring Western forces to keep it up.

(AP Photo)

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The nine lives of Governor Rick Perry

JONATHAN GURWITZ

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Express-News

One way of looking at Rick Perry's political career is to conclude that he is extraordinarily lucky.

He first ran for and won statewide office in 1990, just as Republicans were beginning their historic takeover of Texas state government. As lieutenant governor, he was able to move into the Governor's Mansion when George W. Bush won the 2000 presidential election. Now the Lone Star State's longest-serving governor, he has the potential to join a winnowing field of GOP presidential aspirants as a serious contender.

Another better way of looking at Perry's political success is to recognize that he has an uncanny ability to position himself to take advantage of political opportunities.

Perry, after all, entered the Texas House in 1984 as a Democrat. He won re-election as a Democrat in 1986 and 1988, the same year he served as state chairman of Al Gore's presiden-



Texas Gov. Rick Perry speaks at the Lincoln Dinner, an annual fundraising event for the New York GOP, in New York. Perry stirred speculation Tuesday that he would seek the 2012 Republican presidential nomination, championing his state's economy before a packed GOP gathering in New York and telling a television interviewer he would engage in a "thought process" before deciding whether to join the field.

(AP Photo/Bill Kostroun)

tial campaign.

Whether Perry left the Democratic Party or the Democratic Party left him, to borrow a phrase from Ronald Reagan, is immaterial. He perceived the long term trend of rising GOP political power in Texas. He also spotted an opportunity to capitalize on that trend by running in 1990 as a Republican against a nationally

recognized figure of liberal Democratic politics – Agri-

culture Commissioner Jim Hightower.

Two decades later, Perry faced a formidable primary challenge from popular Sen.

Kay Bailey Hutchison. Hutchison, who ran a haphazard campaign, tried to shape the GOP race into a referendum on Perry's tenure: Ten years was enough. Perry recognized the rising influence of the Tea Party and capitalized on it by turning a gubernatorial election in Texas into a referendum on Washington.

Hutchison had the endorsement of high-profile conservatives such as Dick Cheney. Yet the Perry campaign effectively tarred Hutchison as a big government ally of Barack Obama and a prodigious porker on

the Senate Appropriations Committee who championed wasteful earmarks – earmarks that everyone in Texas, Democrats and Republicans, including Rick Perry, had for years sought, applauded and gladly accepted.

Will Rick Perry seek the GOP presidential nomination? Even at this late date, that's the wrong question to ask, and anyone who claims to know the answer is fooling themselves and the public. Perry says he's giving serious thought to entering the race. He's not being coy.

The correct question is whether Perry is positioning himself for a presidential run. And the unequivocal answer is that Perry has been doing so at least since the 2010 GOP primary. □

California board rejects U2 guitarist's home plan

IAN LOVETT

© 2011 New York Times

LOS ANGELES – Turning that Malibu dream house into reality is never easy, even when you are a world-famous rock star. The California Coastal Commission, which oversees development near the shoreline, this week rejected a plan from David Evans, better known as U2 guitarist The Edge, to build five mansions along a remote stretch of scenic Malibu coastline. The commission's 8-4 vote capped four years of wrangling over the project, and the battle may now move to court.

"This is one of the most environmentally devastating projects that I've seen in the 38-year history of the Coastal Commission," said Peter Douglas, the agency's executive director. While celebrity mansions are hardly new to Malibu, Evans' building plans have been a source of particular controversy, which pitted environmental groups against each other. The houses Evans envisioned boast state-of-the-art green building techniques: solar panels, rainwater catching systems and native plants.

But despite that, environmentalists particularly opposed the road that would have to be built to access the homes, while some potential neighbors in this most exclusive of enclaves disliked the idea of five homes – each more than 7,000 square feet – marring their view of the cliffs.

Evans and the four other property owners mollified one conservancy group that had opposed the project with a donation of \$1 million, an open space dedication and a trail easement that would allow hikers to pass through an area currently closed to the public. □



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Obama extends Guard border deployment

STEWART M. POWELL

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WASHINGTON — President Obama's administration on Friday extended deployment of 1,200 National Guard troops along the Southwestern border 90 days longer than initially planned to provide a "critical bridge" during a 1,500-agent buildup of federal law enforcement. Matt Chandler, spokesman for the Department of Homeland Security, announced the extension of the National Guard deployment through Sept.



President Barack Obama, right, talks with Mongolian President Tsakhia Elbegdorj, left, during their meeting in the Oval Office of the White House, in Washington, Thursday, June 16, 2011.
(AP Photo/Jacquelyn Martin)

30, which will be at federal expense. Guard personnel "are providing support to law enforcement functions aimed at stemming northbound and southbound illicit smuggling and flows of people, drugs, weapons, and bulk cash," Chandler said in a statement. National Guard troops have helped U.S. Customs and Border Protection agents seize more than 14,000 pounds of drugs and identify illicit border-crossers leading to the arrest of more than 7,000 undocumented immigrants since last summer, Chandler said. The administration initially planned to end the deployment June 30 after Congress twice refused White House requests for the Pentagon and Department of Homeland Security to share the multimillion dollar cost. Obama has asked Congress to reallocate \$30 million to cover the cost of the extended deployment. "The National Guard is acting as a critical bridge while the administration brings new assets online (with) additional people, technology and infrastructure dedicated to further strengthen our already unprecedented border security and management," Chandler said. Obama ordered National Guard reinforcements in May 2010 to buy time for hiring and training 1,000 additional U.S. Border Patrol agents, 250 additional Customs and Border Protection officers at ports of entry and 250 additional Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents as part of a \$600 million buildup approved by Congress. Texas Gov. Rick Perry and the governors of the three

other Southwest border states asked Obama to deploy National Guard troops at federal expense shortly after Obama came to office in January, 2009. Obama approved the request 16 months later. Perry, a prospective 2012 GOP presidential candidate, has criticized Obama for delaying the initial deployment and for allegedly short-changing Texas of its fair share of the troops. Perry sought at least 1,000 National Guard troops for Texas, which accounts for the longest stretch of the U.S.-Mexico border. But the Lone Star State got less than 300. Katherine Cesinger, Perry's press secretary in Austin, said Texas would "take whatever help we can get," but added: "Federal resources along our border remain woefully inadequate and the administration continues to put American lives in jeopardy by failing to fill in the gaps that they've left along the Southwestern border." Texas accounts for 64 percent of the U.S.-Mexico border but has received barely 20 percent of the National Guard troops, she said. Extending the deployment of less than 300 National Guard troops in Texas is "definitely not enough — this is not sufficient; this is not some sort of victory." Chandler of the Department of Homeland Security emphasized that National Guard troops are not apprehending or arresting alleged drug smugglers and undocumented immigrants but are providing backup that frees federal law enforcement agents to step up enforcement and arrests. □

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A watchdog professor, now defending himself

DAVID CARR
JOHN SCHWARTZ
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For the past two years, David Protess, a renowned journalist and professor who spent three decades fighting to prove the innocence of others, has been locked in a battle to do the same for himself. It hasn't gone as well.

Protess, who taught at the Medill journalism school at Northwestern University, was the founder and driving force behind the Medill Innocence Project, which was instrumental in exonerating at least 12 wrongly convicted defendants and freeing them from prison, including five who were on death row in Illinois, and in prompting then-Gov. George Ryan to clear the rest of death row in 2003. But during an investigation into a questionable conviction, the Cook County state's attorney turned her

attention instead on Protess and his students. Since then, questions have been raised about deceptive tactics used by the Medill students, about allegations that Protess cooperated with the defense lawyers (which would negate a journalist's legal privilege to resist subpoenas) and, most damning, whether he altered an email to cover up that cooperation.

Medill, which enjoys an international reputation, in significant part because of his work, removed him from teaching in April, and this week he resigned from Northwestern altogether. It has been a breathtaking reversal for Protess, who says he believes he is being pilloried for lapses in memory and a desire to defend his students.

"I have spent three decades exposing wrongful conviction only to find myself in the cross hairs of oth-



David Protess, a renowned journalist and former Northwestern University professor, in the new offices of the Chicago Innocence Project, the non-profit Protess recently started, in downtown Chicago on June 15, 2011. For the past two years, Protess, who spent three decades fighting to prove the innocence of others, has been locked in a battle to do the same for himself.

(Amanda Rivkin/The New York Times)

ers who are wrongfully accusing me," he said in an interview.

It is often said that academ-

ic politics are so vicious because the stakes are so low, but in the matter of Protess and the wrongly convicted

men he helped to free, the stakes could not have been higher.

"He is in the hall of fame of investigative journalists in the 20th century," said Mark Feldstein, an associate professor of media and public affairs at George Washington University. "Using cheap student labor, he has targeted a very specific issue, and that work has reopened cases, changed laws and saved lives."

Dennis Culloton, a lawyer who served as press secretary for Ryan, said that Medill's work led in part to the decision to essentially shut down Illinois's death row. "I think it would have been an academic discussion if not for David's work," he said. □

AARP open to cuts in social security

ERIC LICHTBLAU
© 2011 New York Times News Service

WASHINGTON — AARP, the powerful lobby for older Americans that has been seen as one of the leading opponents of Social Security benefit cuts, said on Friday that it was open to modest reductions in benefits for future recipients. The group's stance, which generated quick reaction from all sides because of its powerful voice on the issue, could provide added ammunition to fiscal conservatives who have sought unsuccessfully to restructure Social Security and chip away at the benefits it promises older Americans. "Our goal is to limit any changes in benefits," John Rother, AARP's policy chief, said in a telephone interview, "but we also want to see the system made solvent."

Rother said that the group's stance on possible cuts, which was first reported in The Wall Street Journal in Friday's editions, should be seen less as a major change in position than as a reflection of the political and financial realities facing the Social Security system and the country as a whole. "You have to look at all the tradeoffs," Rother said, "and what we're trying to do is engage the American public in that debate."

He made clear that the group's willingness to discuss cuts comes with conditions: Reductions in benefits should be "minimal," they should not affect current recipients and instead should be directed "far off in the future," and they should be offset by increases in tax-generated revenue. Nonetheless, the group's openness to the possibility of unspecified cuts was seen as a significant development by people on all sides of the Social Security question, because of AARP's influence on federal policies affecting older Americans, including Medicare, prescription drugs and many more. Third Way, a moderate Democratic group in Washington that has favored possible reductions in benefits, called AARP's position "a watershed moment" in the debate over Social Security. □



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For want of a one-word change, Arizona jobless lose benefits

CATHERINE RAMPELL

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One word. Just one little word.

That's all that Frank Ballesteros, a 62-year-old desperate for work, needs to stay afloat. The word is not "hope" or "God" or "patience." It is, improbably, "three."

Arizona's Legislature has resisted making a small word change, from "two" to "three," in its statutes. Only if it does will Ballesteros continue to receive jobless benefits through November, allowing him to pay his mortgage and medical bills. Otherwise, his checks



Frank Ballesteros, who has been out of work for over a year, at a relative's home in Tucson, Ariz., June 16, 2011. An extension of employment benefits, paid for entirely with federal money, has not been passed by Arizona and a handful of other states, like Wisconsin and Alaska.

(Chris Hinkle/The New York Times)

stop next week.

"It is almost 100 degrees out there, and I am walking door to door handing out resumes," said Ballesteros, who worked for 21 years at a nonprofit group in Tucson before getting laid off when funding dried up. "Now Arizona decided to kill the benefits extension from the federal government because some legislator decided we're just sitting around on our butts waiting for a check."

That last extension of unemployment benefits — typically received in Weeks 80 through 99 of unemployment — is paid for entirely with federal money and does not affect state budgets. But because of ideological opposition and other legislative priorities, Arizona and a handful of other states, like Wisconsin and Alaska, have not made the one-word change necessary to keep the program going. Right now, about 640,000 jobless Americans are receiving this last tier of benefits, according to the National Employment Law Project. The money, appropriated in the 2009 federal stimulus package, was initially intended for states with jobless rates higher than they were two years earlier. Since the recovery has been much slower than predicted, though, Congress decided in December to allow states to continue receiving the money if their unemployment rates

were higher than they were three years earlier. States simply needed to change "two" to "three" in the relevant state law.

Some economists say that cutting off the long-term unemployed from extended federal assistance could backfire by putting further strain on state economies instead. Indeed, most states were quick to make the one-word change, counting on the federal money not only to support ailing families but also to serve as a strong stimulus (jobless benefits are normally spent more quickly than, say, tax refunds). Nearly every state — Arizona included — had opted into the extended benefits program when it was introduced.

But now Arizona is reluctant. When Gov. Jan Brewer called a special session to address the issue last week, legislators didn't introduce a bill. Republican legislators said they would consider the change only if it were packaged with other provisions, including tax cuts and stricter rules for receiving unemployment benefits in the first place.

"We prefer to look for long-term solutions so when the Obama administration money runs out Arizonans will have jobs," said Andy Tobin, the Republican speaker of the house. Some Arizona lawmakers expressed discomfort with the prospect of accepting more federal money. □

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Pros and amateurs celebrate the 25th edition of Aruba Hi-Winds



ORANJESTAD – The Aruba Hi-Winds 25th Anniversary edition will kick off tomorrow with freestyle registration at 9 am followed by single and double elimination depending on the wind strength. The competition heats will last until approximately 5 pm.

Hundreds of windsurfers and kiteboarders from around the world, amateurs and professionals, are coming to compete in this prestigious event to give their best in the exciting surf races and also to join the celebrations of the 25th edition.

Minister of Health and Sports Dr. Richard Visser, will launch the 25th Annual Aruba Hi-Winds tomorrow at the Fisherman's Huts just North of the Marriott Resort. Everyone is invited to enjoy in the fun and entertainment starting at 7 pm with the opening ceremonies followed by live entertainment by the Rincon Boyz.



World Champion Björn Dunkerbeck will arrive tomorrow evening on Aruba for the Hi-Winds. Event Coordinators Jarne Everts and Tom Vriens explain that Dunkerbeck may even join the amateur races. They expect about top professionals and over 150 amateurs. Chairman Wim Eelens says, "We are really proud of our own Aruba Hi-Winds PWA World Tour Grand Slam event."

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World Champion Bjorn Dunkerbeck back on Aruba

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This event gives me great satisfaction, especially when all the big names in the industry are coming. This event provides great marketing from and for Aruba."

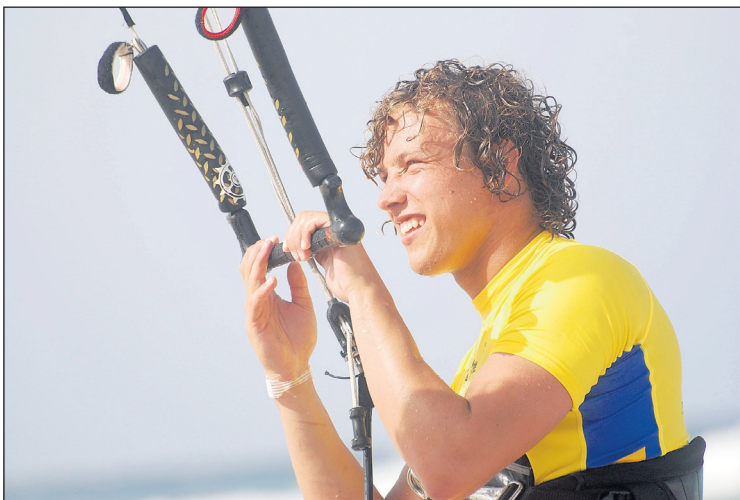
PWA

The Hi-Winds organization and the Government of Aruba accomplished to get the Professional Windsurf Association (PWA) to Aruba. The best windsurfers of the world are connected to this organization. The PWA World Tour visits 14 countries this year, including Aruba.

On Aruba a so called Grand Slam will take place, which means that the event contains two different windsurfing disciplines. The first one is Freestyle: who can do the best and hardest tricks like jumps and loops in a smooth style. A jury decides who will be the winner.

The second discipline is Slalom racing: who can sail the quickest around a series of buoys. In both categories the first place in the category Women is currently held by Aruba's Sarah-Quita Offringa. She won the World Title Freestyle the last three years. In 2010 she started Slalom racing and surprised the world champion by beating her.

She finished 3rd in the 2010 overall ranking. This year she has already won the first slalom event.



GRAND SLAM

The professionals will start on June 19. The first three days there will be Freestyle competition and after that, from June 23 to 26, Slalom racing. After the daily Happy Hour from 4-5 there will be performances by Original Fellow, Earplugs, Honeypt and Tsunami. In the weekend Cool FM will bring live reports from the beach.

The best amateur windsurfers of Aruba have received a 'Wild Card' and are invited to join the Pros: Ryan Lampe, Nathaniel McFarlane, Ethiene Soliano, Ethan Westera, Nik van den Eerenbeemt, Berend Pronk, Nicole van der Velden and Amanda Westera.

For them beating the world top is not likely. "But that is not that important. It's more



Aruba's Sarah-Quita Offringa is pictured above. She won the World Title Freestyle the last three years and in 2010 she started Slalom racing and surprised the previous world champion by beating her. She finished 3rd in the 2010 overall ranking and this year she is destined to become overall World Champion.

about the experience," according to Ryan Lampe and Mac McFarlane. "Something like this happens just once in a lifetime for an amateur windsurfer". To prepare themselves they train almost every day on the waters of Fisherman's Huts, together with the rest of the Aruba Wild Card Team.

ARUBA HI-WINDS Amateurs

Three days after the Pro event, the amateurs will start on June 29 with the windsurfing races at the Fisherman's Huts and the kite competition at the other side of the island, at Boca Grandi. Hendrick Burgers and Annabel van Westerop from Aruba are

training hard this year to defend their first places of last year.

In the second Hi-Winds week performances by Datapanik, Dushi Band, Jemm, Chronicbox, OBS Brassband and Honeypt will spice up the evening program.

The popular fashion show will take place on Saturday, July 2nd. Not only during all races and activities on the beach, but also during the awards ceremony at Pacey Herencia on Monday, July 4th, the Aruban public is invited to come and celebrate the 25th edition of the Aruba Hi-Winds Grand Slam Pro-Am with all the participating windsurfers and kiteboarders. □

At the Renaissance Marina Hotel & Renaissance Ocean Suites Outstanding employees celebrate anniversaries



ORANJESTAD – In a recent get together at the Renaissance Convention Center 125 years of experience were celebrated over gourmet lunch, as employees of the company reached important milestones in their careers. Celebrating five years of service Gian Carlo Lacle, Blue Bar, Judith Gross, Housekeeping, Noredis Vanegas, Renaissance Private Island, Jean Misere Lamare, Kitchen, Yaneris Curiel, Food & Beverage, Alex Loopstop and Dario Boekhoudt both from Engineering. Completing 15 years of service at the resorts Ann Marie Williams, Landscaping and Nector Alicea, Front Office. Concluding 20 years of work with the same company Agnes Pascall, Housekeeping, Keila Maduro, Aquarius Restaurant and Beatriz Arends of the department of Human Resources.

General Manager Paul Gielen thanked his staff members for their dedication and for the time and effort they have invested into making the Renaissance Resorts a premier vacation destination, with two distinctly different properties, both graced with style and a tropical elegance, in addition to warm and caring service. □

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In scattered protests, Saudi women take to the wheel

NEIL MACFARQUHAR
DINA SALAH AMER
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CAIRO — Scattered reports by social media and an informal network of activists in Saudi Arabia suggested that several dozen women in major cities drove on Friday, in defiance of the law, with few confrontations reported with either the traffic or morals police. At least half a dozen women who were stopped were escorted home and admonished not to drive again, said activists reached by telephone.

From its inception in April, the protest against the longstanding ban was far smaller than initially anticipated, but it was not meant to be a mass driving effort.

Rather, women with legal driving licenses from other countries were urged to run mundane errands — going to the grocery store, perhaps — in order to underscore the fact that it should be normal for women to drive.

Maha al-Qahtani, an information technology specialist for the government, drove around the capital, Riyadh, for 45 minutes with her husband, Mohamed, a human rights activist, in the car. She braced for a siren after passing each of about five police cars, she said, but they ignored her. "I woke up today believing with every part of me that



Female anti-government protestors react during a demonstration demanding the resignation of Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh, in Taiz, Yemen, Saturday, June 11, 2011. Nearly 100,000 Yemenis protested Friday in a main square of the capital, demanding the president's ouster in the biggest rally since Ali Abdullah Saleh left for Saudi Arabia after he was wounded in an attack on his palace.

(AP Photo/Anees Mahyoub)

this is my right, I woke up believing this is my duty, and I was no longer afraid," said al-Qahtani, adding that she had brought a change of clothes and a prayer rug with her in case she was detained.

Manal al-Sharif, a 32-year-old single mother, started the call for the June 17 protest in April with a Facebook page. But after posting videos of herself driving around Al Khobar in the Eastern province, she was arrested in late May and jailed for nine days — a punishment that was stricter than expected. Many sup-

porters were disappointed, feeling that she had jumped the gun and jeopardized them all by taking a confrontational approach. Women driving remains a sensitive issue in Saudi Arabia. For religious conservatives, it is a kind of Alamo, with the ban a sign that the kingdom still holds to its tra-

ditions and has not caved to Western pressure.

The ruling family has been especially dependent on this base of supporters in recent months as protests erupted across the region and has been mute as the mufti, the highest religious figure in the kingdom, rolled out a fatwa banning pro-

tests.

Many Saudi activists considered the treatment meted out to al-Sharif a warning from the monarchy against trying to organize any kind of movement via social media. The initiative for women to drive was the strongest effort so far in the kingdom inspired by the regional climate.

"Women in Saudi Arabia see other women in the Middle East making revolutions, women in Yemen and Egypt at the forefront of revolutions, being so bold, toppling entire governments," said Waleed Abu Alkhair, whose wife drove around Jidda. "The women Saudi Arabia looked at themselves and they realized, 'Wow! We can't even drive!'"

Abu Alkhair said he knew about many women who drove, and aside from one being questioned by the police for two hours, none were bothered. Once the campaign had been announced there were frequent threats by opponents to punish female drivers either by beating them or by smashing their cars. □

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U.S. pledges to raise deportation threshold

JULIA PRESTON

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Moving to repair an immigration enforcement program that has drawn rising opposition from governors and police chiefs, senior immigration officials on Friday announced steps they said would focus the program more closely on deporting immigrants convicted of serious crimes. In unveiling the changes, John Morton, the head of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, said the deportation program would continue to expand as planned in order to be operating nationwide by 2013, despite

criticism from many police chiefs and from the governors of Illinois, New York and Massachusetts, who sought

to withdraw their states. But in making course corrections to the program, known as Secure Com-



Chinese people eat lunch on a bench outside a shopping mall in Beijing, China Wednesday, June 15, 2011. China's inflation rose to its highest level in nearly three years in May, thanks largely to stubbornly high food prices, adding to economic and social strains that have fanned recent protests.

(AP Photo/Andy Wong)

munities, Morton acknowledged the groundswell of local resistance, including opposition from Latino and immigrant groups, to an effort that is central to President Barack Obama's approach to controlling illegal immigration. Critics said the program was casting too wide a net and had strayed from its goal of bolstering public safety by expelling illegal immigrants who committed the most dangerous crimes.

In a fix likely to have broad practical effect, Morton issued a memorandum that greatly expanded the factors immigration authorities

can take into account in deciding to defer or cancel deportations. Agents are now formally urged to consider how long an illegal immigrant has been in the United States, or whether the immigrant was brought here illegally as a child and is studying in high school or college. In practice, the memorandum gives immigration agents authority to postpone or cancel, on a case by case basis, deportations of illegal immigrant students who might have been eligible for legal status under a bill stalled in Congress that is known as the Dream Act. □

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Mexican teenage girls train as drug cartel killers

MEXICO CITY (Reuters)

- Dwarfed by surrounding reporters and with her head bowed to avoid the television cameras, the slender 16-year-old hesitated slightly before she answered the question. "I'm a hitwoman," she said. Maria Celeste Mendoza was among six teenage suspected gang members arrested this week by police after a shoot-out with authorities in central Mexico, one of the growing ranks of young people working for the country's drug cartels.

Dressed in combat fatigues and with her face hidden, the girl from the northern border state of Tamaulipas described how she had been trained to use Kalashnikov assault rifles and other weapons by the Zetas, one of Mexico's most brutal gangs.

In a listless drawl, Mendoza said she was paid 12,000 pesos (\$1,000) for two weeks' work, more than three times the national average. Although she said she was trained as a hitwoman, it was unclear if she had killed anyone yet. As is customary in Mexico, she and the other suspects, six of whom were women aged 21 or below, were paraded in front of the media by police after their capture in San Cristobal de la Barranca, near the country's second city, Guadalajara.

Rising youth unemployment, easy access to drugs and the quick cash cartels offer recruits are all blamed for felling the delinquency that has cast a shadow over Mexico's future.

"Organized crime has become a job provider for a section of the population who don't have a lot of other options," said Vic-



Federal police officers escort suspect Edgar Huerta Montiel, 22, aka "El Wache", an alleged member of the Mexican Zetas drug cartel, during a presentation to the press in Mexico City, Friday, June 17, 2011. According to police, Huerta was arrested Thursday during an operation in the Mexican state of Zacatecas.

(AP Photo/Eduardo Verdugo)

tor Clark-Alfaro, director of the Binational Center for Human Rights in Tijuana on the Mexican border with California.

"Since 2000, the age at which people start getting mixed up in organized crime has fallen," he added. "And in the last few years, the age has dropped to about 17 or 18."

Detailed figures on the role of minors in the cartels are scarce, but newspaper Reforma said the number charged with involvement in organized crime jumped to 214 last year from 8 in 2007, citing data from the attorney general's office.

The arrest of Mendoza and another 16-year-old girl with her, Isela Sandoval, is part of the trend. Sandoval also said she had been trained as a hitwoman but that she had not killed anyone yet, according to Mexican media reports.

Around 40,000 people have died in escalating drug-related violence since President Felipe Calderon sent in the army to try to crush the cartels at the end of 2006.

LIVE FAST, DIE YOUNG

Although authorities have arrested a number of teenage hitmen in the past few years, it is highly unusual

organized crime," he said. Last December, Mexican soldiers captured suspected drug gang hitman Edgar Jimenez, known as "El Ponchis," a 14-year-old U.S. citizen who the army said had admitted killing several people while under the influence of drugs. The vast quantities of narcotics moving across the country toward the lucrative markets of Europe and the United States have helped to turn Mexicans onto drugs earlier than before. "Kids are starting to take drugs younger and younger," said Alberto Islas, a security expert at consultancy Risk Evaluation. "A decade ago, the average age was 14, now it's 10. This has the effect of lowering

their perception of risks." Coupled with the fact that youth unemployment is now double what it was ten years ago -- in a country whose growing population is one of the youngest in the Americas -- the trends present the cartels with a rich source of cheap labor. "Young folk are recruited because they're potentially more aggressive and less likely to care about the consequences than adults. They'll take more risks," said Clark-Alfaro.

He said it is often a short career with the attorney general's office calculating that young men who get mixed up in organized crime will, on average, be dead within three or four years. □

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In Japan, another nuclear reactor tests nation's will

HIROKO TABUCHI

© 2011 New York Times

TSURUGA, Japan — Three hundred miles southwest of Fukushima, at a nuclear reactor perched on the slopes of this rustic peninsula, engineers are engaged in another precarious struggle.

The Monju prototype fast-breeder reactor — a long-troubled national project — has been in a precarious state of shutdown since a 3.3-ton device crashed into the reactor's inner vessel, cutting

off access to the plutonium and uranium fuel rods at its core.

Engineers have tried more than 24 times since the accident in August to recover the device, which appears to have gotten stuck. They will make another attempt as early as next week.

But critics warn that the recovery process is fraught with dangers because the plant uses large quantities of liquid sodium, a highly flammable substance, to cool the nuclear



A man fishes near the Monju prototype fast breeder reactor, a long-troubled national project, in Tsuruga, Fukui prefecture, Japan, June 16, 2011. The reactor has been in a precarious state of shutdown since a 3.3-ton device crashed into the reactor's inner vessel, cutting off access to the plutonium and uranium fuel rods at its core.

(Kosuke Okahara/The New York Times)

fuel. The Monju reactor, which forms the cornerstone of a

national project by resource-poor Japan to reuse and eventually produce nuclear fuel, shows the tensions between the scale of Japan's nuclear ambitions and the risks.

The plant, a \$12 billion project, has a history of safety lapses. It was shuttered for 14 years after a devastating fire in 1995, one of Japan's most serious nuclear accidents before the crisis this year at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station. Prefecture and city officials found that the operator had tampered with video images of the fire to hide the scale of the disaster. A top manager at the plant recently committed suicide, on the day that Japan's atomic energy agency announced that efforts to recover the device would cost 1.75 million yen. And, like several other nuclear reactors, Monju lies on an active fault.

Even if the device can be removed, restarting the reactor will be risky, given its safety record and its use of highly toxic plutonium as fuel, said Hideyuki Ban, co-director of the Citizens' Nuclear Information Center, a watchdog group, and a member of an advisory government committee on Japan's long-term nuclear energy policy. The plant is 60 miles from

Kyoto, a city of 1.5 million people, and the fast-breeder design of the reactor makes it more prone to Chernobyl-type runaway reactions in the case of a severe accident, critics say.

"Let's say they make this fix, which is very complicated," Ban said. "The rest of the reactor remains highly dangerous. And an accident at Monju would have catastrophic consequences beyond what we are seeing at Fukushima."

Japan badly needs sources of energy. By closing the loop on its nuclear fuel cycle, Japan aims to reuse, recycle and produce fresh fuel for its 54 reactors, all within its borders. "Monju is a vital national asset," said Noritomo Narita, a spokesman here in Tsuruga for the reactor's operator, the government-backed Japan Atomic Energy Agency. "In a country so poor in resources, such as Japan, the efficient use of nuclear fuel is our national policy, and our mission."

Critics have been fighting the project since its inception in the 1970s. "It's Japan's most dangerous reactor," said Miwako Ogiso, secretary-general of the Council of the People of Fukui Prefecture Against Nuclear Power. □

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Violent clashes as thousands protest across Syria

ANTHONY SHADID
© 2011 New York Times

Hwaida Saad contributed reporting from Beirut, and Liam Stack from Guvecci, Turkey.

BEIRUT – Thousands of protesters poured into the streets of the capital's suburbs and three of Syria's five largest cities Friday, in a weekly show of defiance that came days before President Bashar Assad was expected to address Syrians for the first time in two months. Activists said at least 19 people were killed and dozens wounded.

Security forces fired on protesters in Homs, one of Syria's most restive locales, and the police and protesters fought in Deir al-Zour, a large city in the east. But thousands were permitted to demonstrate in Kiswa, a town south of Damascus, where demonstrators carried banners that read, "Leave!" and "The people want the fall of the regime." Some opposition figures had speculated that the government might try to bring down a death toll that surged past 100 on one Friday in anticipation of Assad's speech, which may come as early as Sunday. Syrian officials have

portrayed the address as significant, though many in the opposition said their expectations were low. As the day wore on, the toll approached 22, the number killed last Friday.

"We want freedom and dignity but not under President Bashar," said a 30-year-old farmer in Kiswa who gave his name as Abdel-Rahman. "He keeps promising for three months on reforms but all we see is more killing and suffering." The government's crackdown has forced nearly 10,000 refugees across the northern border with Turkey and, on Friday, its repercussions spilled into Lebanon, where rival groups clashed after a protest against Assad in the northern city of Tripoli.

Three people were killed there, including an off-duty soldier, the police said. The clash erupted in a part of Tripoli that has often witnessed trouble between Sunni Muslims and Alawites, a minority heterodox sect that serves as the backbone of Assad's rule.

The crackdown has brought international condemnation of a leadership that has ruled Syria for more than four decades.

Diplomats have spoken of growing pressure on Assad, who has taken steps that have so far proved largely superficial, and Syrian officials

have suggested that a more serious dialogue may ensue with opposition figures.

On Thursday, in a symbolic

but humiliating episode, the country's richest businessman, Rami Makhoul, a reviled cousin of Assad, was forced to announce that he would devote himself to charity and avoid any new deals that brought him profit.

"You can't do charity with the millions you stole from us," read a banner carried by hundreds of demonstrators Friday in Zabadani, a town on the capital's outskirts.

Since the start of the uprising in mid-March, the government and opposition have cast it in a different light. At times, government officials have acknowledged some of the protesters' demands as legitimate, while insisting that armed groups have hijacked the movement. The opposition says the government is exaggerating the threat posed by armed groups and contends that the demonstrations are overwhelmingly peaceful. Syrian state television said a policeman was killed and more than 20 were wounded when armed groups opened fire on them. It said six police officers were also wounded when gunmen attacked a police station in Deir al-Zour. □



A boy looks over the shoulder of a Syrian woman, who fled a military crackdown, in a house in Ain al-Baida, Syria, on June 17, 2011. Tens of thousands of protesters poured into the streets of Damascus's suburbs and three of Syria's five largest cities on Friday, in a weekly show of defiance against President Bashar al-Assad.

(Daniel Etter/The New York Times)



DAVID BROOKS
© 2011 New York Times

Most political scandals involve people who are not really enmeshed in the Washington establishment – people like Rep. Anthony Weiner or Rep. William Jefferson. Most scandals involve spectacularly bad behavior – like posting pictures of your private parts on the Web or hiding \$90,000 in cash in your freezer.

But the most devastating scandal in recent history involved dozens of the most respected members of the Washington establishment. Their behavior was not out of the ordinary by any means.

For that reason, the Fannie Mae scandal is the most important political scandal since Watergate. It helped sink the American economy. It has cost taxpayers

Who is James Johnson?

about \$153 billion, so far. It indicts patterns of behavior that are considered normal and respectable in Washington.

The Fannie Mae scandal has gotten relatively little media attention because many of the participants are still powerful, admired and well-connected. But Gretchen Morgenson, a Times colleague, and the financial analyst Joshua Rosner have rectified that, writing “Reckless Endangerment,” a brave book that exposes the affair in clear and gripping form.

The story centers around James Johnson, a Democratic sage with a raft of prestigious connections. Appointed as chief executive of Fannie Mae in 1991, Johnson started an aggressive effort to expand home ownership.

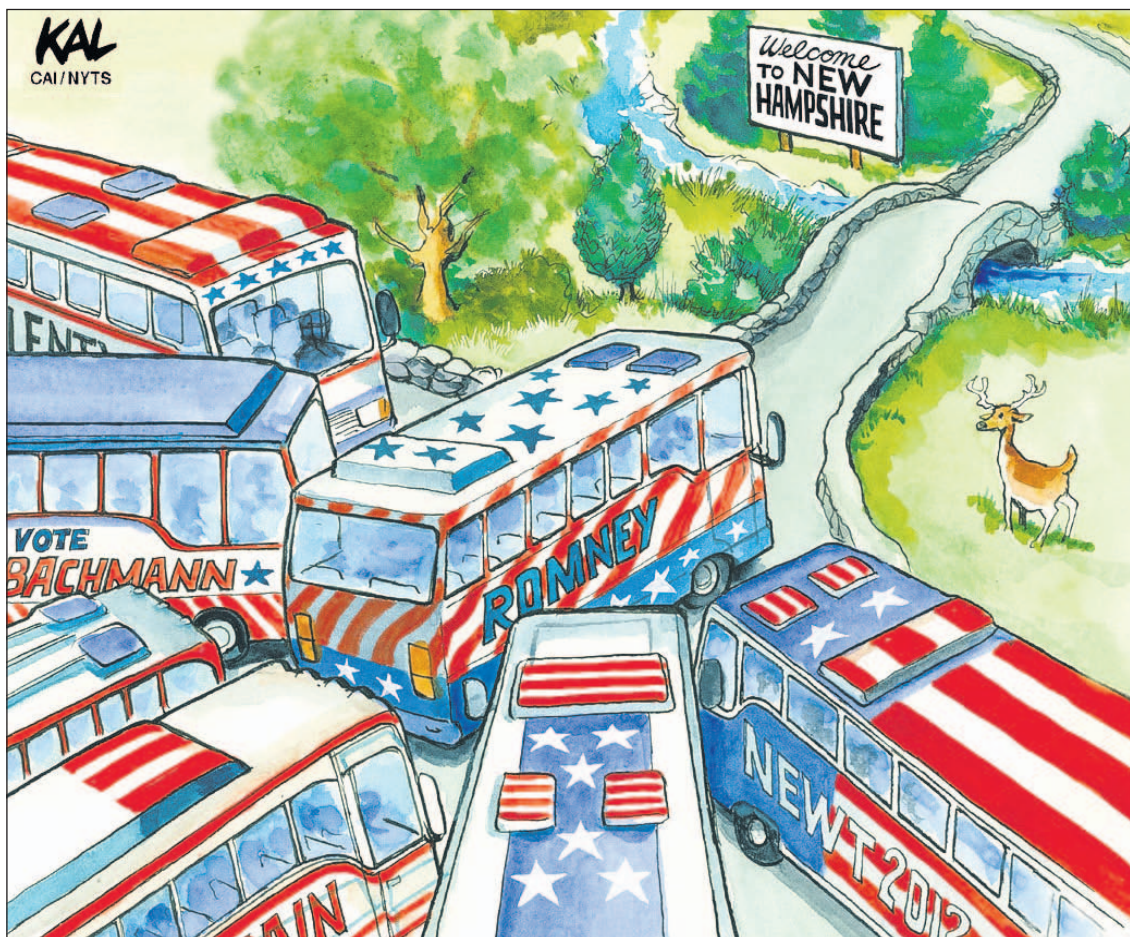
Back then, Fannie Mae could raise money at low interest rates because the federal government implicitly guaranteed its debt. In 1995, according to the Congressional Budget Office, this implied guarantee netted the agency \$7 billion. Instead of using that money to help buy-

ers, Johnson and other executives kept \$2.1 billion for themselves and their shareholders. They used it to further the cause – expanding their clout, their salaries and their bonuses. They did the things that every special-interest group does to advance its interests.

Fannie Mae co-opted relevant activist groups, handing out money to ACORN, the Congressional Black Caucus, the Congressional Hispanic Caucus and other groups that it might need on its side.

Fannie ginned up Astroturf lobbying campaigns. In

2000, for example, a bill was introduced that threatened Fannie's special status. The Coalition for Homeownership was formed and letters poured into congressional offices opposing the bill. Many signatories of the letter had no idea their names had been used. □



Lessons from Tahrir square

THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN
© 2011 New York Times

CAIRO – Being back in Cairo reminds me that there are two parties in this region that have been untouched by the Arab Spring: the Israelis and the Palestinians. Too bad, because when it comes to ossified, unimaginative, oxygen-deprived governments, the Israelis and Palestinians are right up there with pre-revolutionary Egypt and Tunisia. I mean, is there anything less relevant than the prime minister of Israel going to the U.S. Congress for applause and the leader of the Palestinians going to the U.N. – instead of to each other?

Both could actually learn something from Tahrir Square.

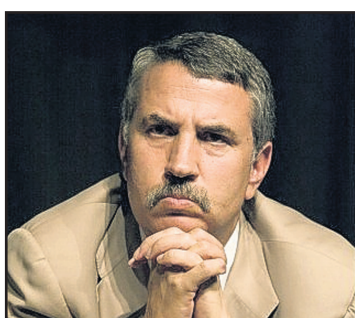
To the Palestinians I would say: You believe the Israelis are stiffing you because

they think they have you in box.

If you resort to violence, they will brand you terrorists. And if you don't resort to violence, the Israelis will just pocket the peace and quiet and build more settlements. Your dilemma is how to move Israel in a way that won't blow up in your face or require total surrender.

You have to start with the iron law of Israeli-Arab peace: Whichever party has the Israeli silent majority on its side wins. Anwar Sadat brought the Israeli majority over to his side when he went to Israel, and he got everything he wanted. Yasir Arafat momentarily did the same with the Oslo peace accords.

How could Palestinians do that again today? I can tell you how not to do it. Having the U.N. General Assembly



pass a resolution recognizing an independent Palestinian state will only rally Israelis around Prime Minister Bibi Netanyahu, giving him another excuse not to talk. May I suggest a Tahrir Square alternative? Announce that every Friday from today forward will be “Peace Day,” and have thousands of West Bank Palestinians march nonviolently to Jerusalem, carrying two things – an olive branch in one hand and a sign in Hebrew and Arabic in the other. The sign should

say: “Two states for two peoples.

We, the Palestinian people, offer the Jewish people a two-state solution based on the 1967 borders – with mutually agreed adjustments – including Jerusalem, where the Arabs will control their neighborhoods and the Jews theirs.”

If Palestinians peacefully march to Jerusalem by the thousands every Friday with a clear peace message, it would become a global news event. Every network in the world would be there. Trust me, it would stimulate a real peace debate within Israel – especially if Palestinians invited youth delegations from around the Arab world to join the marches, carrying the Saudi peace initiative in Hebrew and Arabic. Israeli Jews and Arabs should be invited to

march as well. Together, the marchers could draw up their own peace maps and upload them onto YouTube as a way of telling their leaders what Egyptian youth said to President Hosni Mubarak: “We're not going to let you waste another day of our lives with your tired mantras and maneuvering.”

Crazy, I know. Bibi is reading this and laughing: “The Palestinians will never do that.

They could never get Hamas to adopt nonviolence. It's not who the Palestinians are.”

That is exactly what Mubarak said about the Egyptian people: “They are not capable of being anything but what they are: docile and willing to eat whatever low expectations I feed them.” But then Egyptians surprised him. □

McIlroy roars into the record books at U.S. Open

Rory McIlroy, of Northern Ireland, reacts to his eagle on the eighth hole during the second round of the U.S. Open Championship golf tournament in Bethesda, Md., Friday, June 17, 2011.

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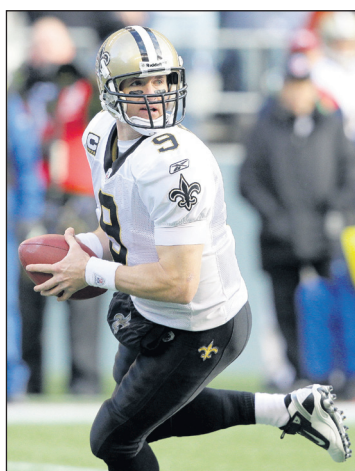


SPORTS Aruba TODAY



On Top Of The News Email: news@arubatoday.com Website: www.arubatoday.com Tel: +297 582-7800 Saturday, June 18, 2011

Reaching a deal not a done deal



This photo taken Jan. 8, 2011 shows New Orleans Saints quarterback Drew Brees looking to pass in the first half of an NFL NFC wild card playoff football game against the Seattle Seahawks, in Seattle.

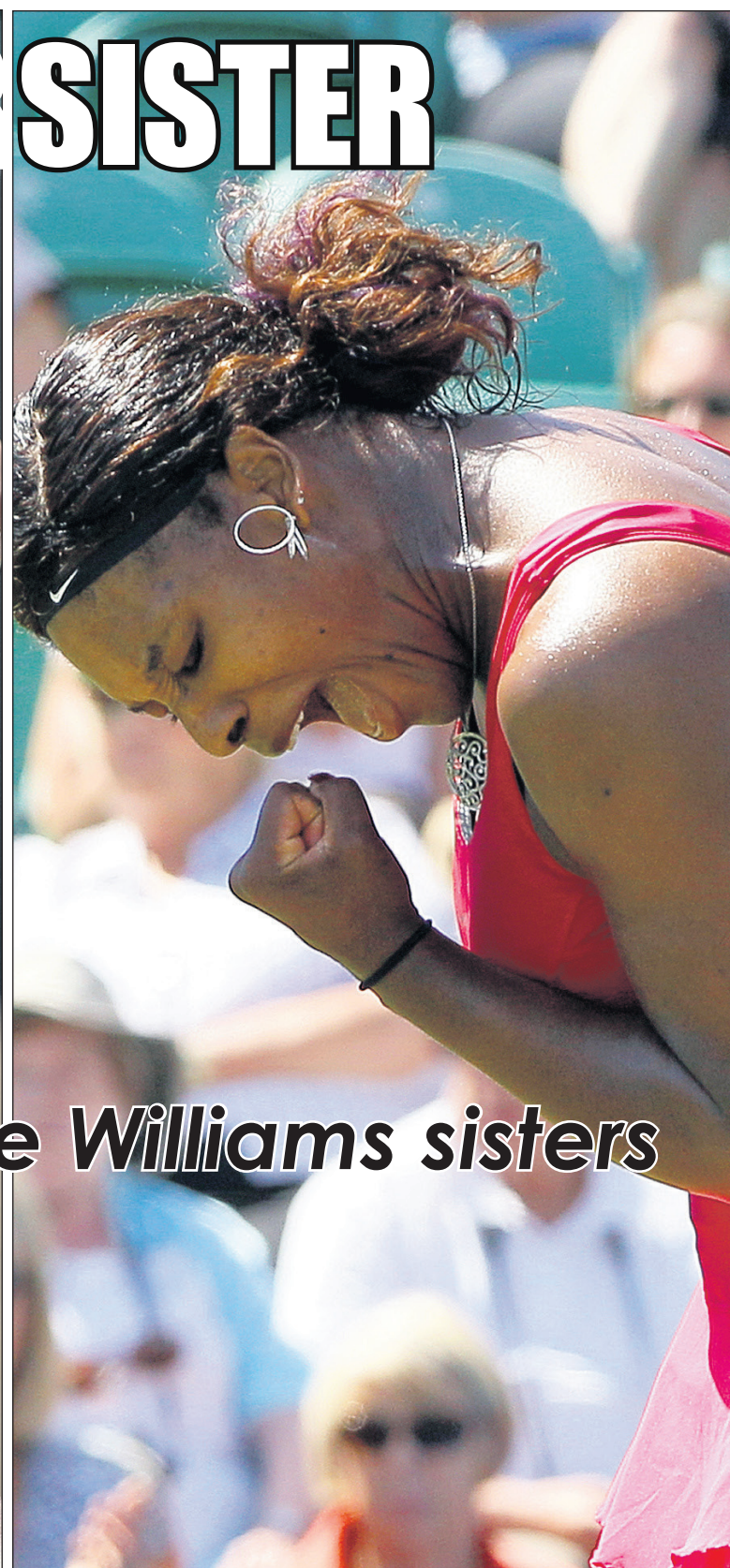
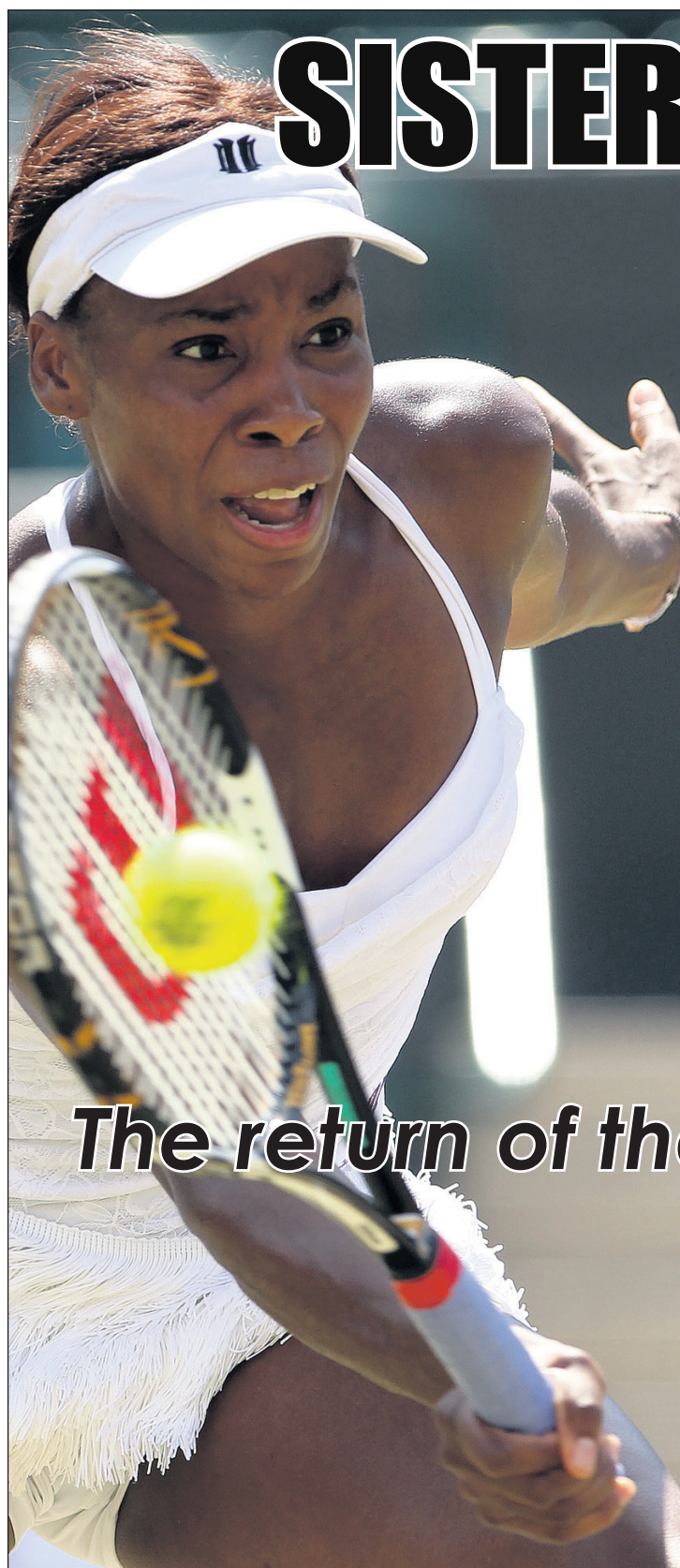
Associated Press

By BARRY WILNER

AP Pro Football Writer

NEW YORK – Reaching a labor deal soon is hardly a done deal in the NFL. Team owners will be updated on recent negotiations with the players when they meet in Chicago on Tuesday. They've been told to prepare to stay an extra day because of the complexity of the proposals both sides have discussed in sessions over the last three weeks. Getting the required 24 of 32 owners to agree on anything can be difficult, let alone something as complex as a new collective bargaining agreement. And there has been enough pushback from owners familiar with those proposals that progress made recently might not lead to an agreement in the next few weeks.

Continued on Page B2



The return of the Williams sisters

In this June 29, 2010 file photo, Venus Williams returns to Bulgaria's Tsvetana Pironkova during their women's singles quarterfinal at the All England Lawn Tennis Championships at Wimbledon. Fit again after the toughest injury layoff of her career, Williams said Saturday, June 11, 2011, that a sixth Wimbledon title is within her reach despite more than four months off the tour; and Serena Williams of the U.S. reacts during her singles tennis match against Tsvetana Pironkova of Bulgaria at the Eastbourne International grass court tennis tournament in Eastbourne, England, Tuesday, June 14, 2011.

Associated Press
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Reaching a deal not a done deal

Continued from B1

Still, according to a person with knowledge of the negotiations, the faction of unhappy owners that exists isn't yet large enough to derail an agreement. That could lead to some heavy lobbying in Chicago at the first owners' meeting specifically scheduled to deal with the lockout.

The person, speaking on condition of anonymity because details of the negotiations are not supposed to be made public, said a new CBA is not imminent.

Owners, Commissioner Roger Goodell and lead negotiator Jeff Pash have been silent about recent developments, citing an agreement with U.S. Magistrate Judge Arthur Boylan not to discuss mediated talks. Players association chief DeMaurice Smith and several players on hand for the negotiations also have avoided comment.

Earlier this week, Goodell



This May 5, 2011 photo shows Ralph Wilson Stadium in Orchard Park, N.Y., home of the Buffalo Bills, during the NFL football lockout. The NFL lockout hasn't just affected players. Seven of the NFL's 32 teams have instituted pay cuts or furloughs for other employees since the lockout began March 12, The Associated Press found in interviews conducted with each club.

Associated Press

responded to a letter he and Smith received from two Congressmen calling for the NFL to adopt a "thorough testing program for HGH."

Goodell said in his reply dated June 13 that testing for HGH "is a critical element of an effective and credible drug testing program" and the league is insisting on "immediate im-

plementation of HGH testing" in the negotiations.

Whether or not such a provision makes it into the CBA, it's clear that deadlines are approaching. Training camps normally would open in about five weeks, and any lengthy delays in striking a deal will endanger them and the pre-season. The first preseason game is at the Pro Football

Hall of Fame inductions; the Bears and Rams are scheduled to play Aug. 7 in Canton, Ohio.

"I know that we've been talking pretty extensively over the last few weeks," said Saints quarterback Drew Brees, one of 10 players on an antitrust suit brought against the league on March 11, hours before the lockout began. "It seems like things are moving in the right direction, which is very positive. It's what we always hoped for as players because obviously we're getting to crunch time here. We're nearing July and there's a lot of work that needs to be done (footballwise) between now and when the season will start, and obviously we'd love to have a settlement in place."

One item of contention likely is the minimum teams can spend on salaries each year and how it is determined, a key for small-market franchises such as Buffalo, Jacksonville and Cincinnati.

Under rules of the previous CBA negotiated in 2006 — owners opted out in 2008 — teams were allowed to spread guaranteed signing bonuses over the duration of a contract. That reduced the salary cap hit each year.

The Bills, however, preferred to count bonuses as dollars spent for each specific season no matter the contract's length, so their payroll essentially was limited to all the salaries on their books for that one season — including potential bonuses and salaries owed to players that had been cut or bought out.

Whether teams would have that kind of flexibility in the next CBA is important to the lower-revenue franchises.

Until now, the owners have appeared unified, from when they opted out to when they locked out. But as negotiations have ramped up, a faction of owners skeptical about the dynamics of a new deal has appeared. □

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Again: Isner draws Mahut in 1st round at Wimbledon

CAROLINE CHEESE

AP Sports Writer

WIMBLEDON, England (AP) — The longest match re-match is coming to Wimbledon next week after John Isner and Nicolas Mahut were drawn Friday to face each other in the first round.

Last year, the pair played the longest match in tennis history at the All England Club, with Isner winning 6-4, 3-6, 6-7 (7), 7-6 (3), 70-68 in a first-round match that which lasted 11 hours, 5 minutes stretched over three days. An audible gasp followed Friday's announcement, but laughter soon ensued.

"It's going to be pretty nuts," Isner said Friday. "I couldn't believe it, I joked with him earlier in the week, last week, and said 'watch us play each other,' and he said 'no, there's no way, that's not even funny.'"

The two players, who have become good friends since their historic encounter a year ago, were due to practice with each other on Saturday — but canceled those plans as soon as they found out the re-match was on.

"We might do dinner (afterward)," Isner said. "We're really good friends now, but obviously we both want to win, but we're going to enjoy it and laugh at it at the same time."

Isner later posted "anyone seen the wimby draw? Who do I play?" as a joke on Twitter and the social networking site was buzzing with talk about the match-up.

"Isner vs mahut drawing each other in the first round after last year is the most amazing thing I've seen intennis! Centre court anyone?!" fourth-seeded Andy Murray said.

Former U.S. Davis Cup captain Patrick McEnroe borrowed his brother John's famous catchphrase as he posted: "you cannot be serious!!!"

The match last year was played on Court 18, and a new plaque this year commemorates the epic contest. Isner said he didn't mind which court they



In this June 23, 2010, file photo shows referee Soeren Friemel, calling off the record-breaking men's singles match between John Isner of the U.S., left, and Nicolas Mahut of France, because of bad light, at the All England Lawn Tennis Championships at Wimbledon.

played on.

"I don't care what they do," Isner said. "It's going to be crazy, they might put us on a bigger court, (or) put us back on that court (18)."

This year's contest is scheduled to take place — or begin at least — on Tuesday. Their first-round match was held over twice because of darkness last year, and with rain forecast for the opening week of Wimbledon, there is a chance they could be delayed again. Defending champion Rafael Nadal was drawn in the opposite half from six-time champion Roger Federer,

meaning there is a chance of a fourth Wimbledon final between the two.

The top-seeded Nadal will start against Michael Russell of the United States in the opening match on Centre Court on Monday. Nadal could come up against the big-serving Milos Raonic in the third round and then 2009 U.S. Open champion Juan Martin del Potro in the last 16. If the seedings pan out, Nadal's quarterfinal could be a re-match of last year's final against Tomas Berdych.

Federer has second-seeded Novak Djokovic as his projected semifinal op-

ponent. The third-seeded Swiss will face Mikhail Kukushkin of Kazakhstan in the first round, and could encounter former finalist David Nalbandian in the third round.

Djokovic meets Jeremy Chardy of France in the first round. Of the top four, Murray has possibly the most difficult route to the final. Before a possible semifinal against Nadal, he could face Marin Cilic in the third round, Richard Gasquet in the last 16 and three-time finalist Andy Roddick in the quarterfinals. Murray will meet Daniel Gimeno-Trav-

er of Spain in the first round. In the women's draw, seventh-seeded Serena Williams and big sister Venus Williams are in opposite halves, setting up the possibility for a fifth sibling final at the All England Club.

The sisters have won nine of the past 11 Wimbledon finals. Serena, who has won four, is 3-1 against five-time champion Venus in the final match.

Serena has played only two matches since winning the title last year after complications with a foot injury led to blood clots on her lungs. She returned in Eastbourne this week, losing a three-set match to Vera Zvonareva.

Zvonareva could meet Venus, who has been seeded 22nd, in the fourth round at Wimbledon. Venus opens against Akgul Amanmuradova of Uzbekistan, while Serena takes on Aravane Rezai of France. Zvonareva plays Alison Riske of the United States.

As the defending champion, Serena's first-round match will open play on Centre Court on Tuesday. Top-seeded Caroline Wozniacki, the No. 1-ranked player looking for her first Grand Slam title, meets Arantxa Parra Santonja of Spain in the first round. If she gets that far, she could meet Serena in the semifinals. □

Associated Press

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matinee: 12:15 - 2:30
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daily: 4:45
matinee: 12:15 - 2:30
late show: 11:30

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PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 4

daily: 5:15 - 8:30
matinee: 2:00
late show: 11:30

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HANGOVER 2

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X-MEN FIRST CLASS

daily: 4:00 - 6:30 - 9:00
matinee: 1:30
late show: 11:30

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SUPER 8

daily: 7:00 - 9:30
matinee: 12:00
late show: 12:00

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Rory McIlroy, of Northern Ireland, reacts to his eagle on the eighth hole during the second round of the U.S. Open Championship golf tournament in Bethesda, Md., Friday, June 17, 2011

Associated Press

McIlroy heads into weekend at 11 under

EDDIE PELLIS

AP National Writer

BETHESDA, Maryland (AP)

— Rory McIlroy finally made a mistake, and even that wasn't enough to make this U.S. Open a fair fight as he headed into the weekend with a record-breaking 11-under 131.

For 17 holes Friday, the 22-year-old from Northern Ireland systematically dissected the monstrous layout at Congressional and inflicted the same kind of hurt on a U.S. Open record book that doesn't change easily. McIlroy made a 6 to finish the day but by then, the damage was done. He shot a 5-under-par 66 to set the record for the best 36-

hole score in the 111-year history of the tournament.

"I'm very happy with my position," McIlroy said. "I couldn't have asked for anything more on the first tee this morning."

His 36-hole score was one shot better than Ricky Barnes at Bethpage in 2009 and the gap would've been bigger had McIlroy not hooked his drive on 18 into the trees and knocked the recovery shot into the water left of the green. He made double-bogey there — a bummer of a way to close a round that had been virtually error free until then.

So good, in fact, that after back-to-back birdies on 16 and 17, McIlroy did something nobody had ever done. He reached 13-under par, the lowest score at any point in the history of the tournament, breaking a record held by Tiger Woods and Gil Morgan.

Despite the late hiccup, McIlroy held a six-shot lead over Y.E. Yang, who teed off about the same time McIlroy left the course. Yang got within six with a birdie on No. 9, then a thunderstorm interrupted play for 42 minutes as the 2009 PGA champion made the turn. When play resumed, he got up and down from the sand on No. 10 to stay at 5 under.

Zach Johnson, Sergio Garcia, Robert Garrigus and Brandt Snedeker finished the day at 2 under, in a tie for third with Heath Slocum, who was still in the middle of his round. With about half the players still on the course, nobody else was making a run. "If he keeps playing the way he's playing, we're all playing for second place," Snedeker said. McIlroy became the fastest player to reach double digits under par at the U.S. Open (26 holes). And he had a good chance of holding the biggest lead at the halfway point of the tournament, a record that belongs to Woods, who led by six after 36 holes of his indelible performance at

Pebble Beach in 2000.

Coming off a final-round collapse at the Masters two months ago, McIlroy is still search of his first major. Now, it's just a matter of which way he'll go. Of the four previous players to reach 11-under par or better at the U.S. Open, two have won easily (Woods and Jim Furyk in 2003) and two have melted down (Morgan in 1992 and Barnes in 2009). McIlroy said he's changed a few things since Augusta.

"I said I needed to be a little more cocky, a little more arrogant on the golf course, and think a little bit more about myself, which I've tried to incorporate a little bit, just on the golf course," he said. "I just try and have a bit of an attitude, you know?"

McIlroy holed out from the eighth fairway for an eagle that got him to 10 under. He made five birdies, 11 pars and still technically doesn't have a bogey, even though he did make the double on 18. He hit 15 more greens in regulation to bring his total to 32 of 36 for the tournament. Before No. 18, even when he got in trouble, he turned out OK. After hitting his approach into the bunker on No. 11, he saved par with a 10-foot putt.

But the signature shot from this day was the eagle on 8. Hitting a short approach, he bounced the ball at the back of the green, it hit twice then spun and rolled slowly before dropping into the cup. McIlroy raised both hands in the air. Phil Mickelson, playing in the same threesome, applauded.

What else could he do? "He's striking it flawlessly and putted great on the greens," said Mickelson, who shot 69 to close at 1 over. "His first two rounds were very impressive." McIlroy backed up the eagle with five straight pars, then stiffed his approach on 14 to four feet and made the putt to move to 11 under. □



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Spanish guard Rubio will join Timberwolves

JOSEPH WILSON
Associated Press

BARCELONA, Spain (AP) — Ricky Rubio is making his long-awaited move to the NBA and will join the Minnesota Timberwolves next season.

The highly touted 20-year-old Spanish guard ended two years of speculation Friday, saying "I have finally decided to start the journey" to the NBA.

"It is my dream and I want to fulfill it," he said. "After thinking about it a lot, the time has arrived."

The Timberwolves chose Rubio with the No. 5 pick in the 2009 NBA draft. But his \$6 million buyout clause at his first Spanish pro team, Joventut — of which an NBA team could pay only \$500,000 under league rules — made him stay in Spain until it came down to a more manageable \$1.4 million.

"I felt very confident since we drafted him that he would start his career here," Timberwolves president David Kahn said.

"There was never a moment where that really wavered."

The Timberwolves have scheduled an introductory news conference for Rubio on Tuesday.

Since his debut with Joventut when he was 14, Rubio

has won numerous titles in Europe. He also helped Spain reach the 2008 Olympic final, a loss to the United States.

"I think all that I have won here gives me strength to go," Rubio said.

But Rubio is coming off perhaps his most disappointing season. His scoring average dropped to 6.5 points and he even lost his starting spot with Barcelona.

Speaking at a news conference at Camp Nou stadium — where Lionel Messi and Pep Guardiola usually address the media — Rubio acknowledged his shortcomings.

"Individually, I could have done things better, but it is a team sport and we had success," Rubio said, adding he was not going to the NBA in an attempt to revive his game.

"I am going because I feel prepared," Rubio said. "I want to play against the best players in the world." Barcelona won the Spanish league title last week, and Rubio knows he might have to wait a while for another trophy. Minnesota was an NBA-worst 17-65 last season and is in dire need of a capable point guard.

"It will mean a change of mentality," Rubio said. "Perhaps we won't be fighting for the title, but



Spanish basketball player Ricky Rubio gestures after a press conference at the Nou Camp stadium in Barcelona, Spain, Friday, June 17, 2011.

Associated Press

we will have other goals. I am willing to do whatever the team needs to win as many games as possible."

The Timberwolves also have the second pick in next week's draft and they should be able to add another player to ease Rubio's transition.

Rubio said he hasn't spoken with his new team about what his exact role will be, but he is sure they will want him to add more muscle on his lanky frame.

"The game is more physi-

cal (in the NBA)," he said. "I have to hit the weights and get stronger."

Many had speculated that Rubio would try to force his way out of small-market Minnesota to play in a bigger city. But the Timberwolves never pressured the

teenager, delicately negotiating until Rubio decided the time was right.

In his last two seasons in Spain, Rubio averaged 5.9 points, 4.4 assists and 1.85 steals in 21.6 minutes. The Timberwolves believe that Rubio is better suited to the NBA than the European game, which is played on smaller courts and doesn't give guards as much room to operate on the perimeter.

"I like the NBA game as a spectator," Rubio said. "It is very attractive and more open."

The Wolves expect him to flourish with the freedom that he will have in the NBA, which differs from the more rigid, deliberate style that FC Barcelona employs.

"A lot of attention is paid to his numbers without really an understanding of how different their game is and their style of play," Kahn said. "Especially with the Barcelona team, which plays a very halfcourt-oriented game that frankly isn't very suitable for his style." □

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Program offering waivers for health law is ending

ROBERT PEAR

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WASHINGTON — The Obama administration said Friday that it was shutting down a program that had provided exemptions from the new health care law for many employers and labor unions offering bare-bones insur-

vide comprehensive health coverage, but unfortunately they are the only insurance options some consumers have today," Larsen said. The minimum amount of coverage will increase. Federal rules require health plans to provide at least \$1.25 million in coverage

would cause a significant increase in premiums or a significant decrease in access to benefits. Without waivers, some employers said, they would have increased premiums or dropped coverage this year because they could not afford to provide higher health benefits.



In this photo, Dr. Cecil Wilson, president of the American Medical Association, is seen in Chicago. Wilson's year-long term as AMA president will end Tuesday, June 21 during the group's 160th annual meeting, where it votes on policy measures to adopt and lobby for. But new challenges are just beginning for doctors as the Obama administration's Affordable Care Act starts kicking in. (AP Photo/Charles Rex Arbogast)

ance coverage to workers. No more applications will be accepted after Sept. 22, federal health officials said. Steven B. Larsen, director of the federal Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight, said employers and labor unions had until that date to seek exemptions or request the extension of waivers already granted. The new health-care law generally requires employers to provide at least \$750,000 in coverage to each person in their health insurance plans this year. Many restaurants, retailers and small businesses do not meet the standard. Some provide "mini-med" coverage with annual limits that may be as low as \$10,000. "Mini-med plans do not pro-

vide comprehensive health coverage, but unfortunately they are the only insurance options some consumers have today," Larsen said. The minimum amount of coverage will increase. Federal rules require health plans to provide at least \$1.25 million in coverage next year and \$2 million in 2013. In 2014, annual limits for new health plans will be banned. In that year, individuals and small businesses will be able to buy comprehensive coverage through state-supervised insurance exchanges. Waivers granted or renewed in the next three months will run through 2013. To date, the administration has granted waivers to 1,433 health plans covering 3.2 million people. On Friday, the administration disclosed that it had denied 100 applications and then approved nearly one-third of them after reconsidering the evidence. To obtain waivers, employers and health plans must show that compliance with the federal requirements

Republicans have seized on the waivers as evidence that the law is fundamentally flawed. "If the law is so good, why are more and more employers begging for a waiver to get relief from its burdensome mandates?" asked Sen. John Barrasso, R-Wyo. "Americans need waivers from the president's law because it causes health premiums to go up." The policy announced Friday may eliminate the waivers as an issue in the 2012 election year. Under the policy, the administration said, employers and insurers with annual coverage limits below \$2 million will have "a reasonable opportunity" to apply for waivers in the next three months. □

Cancer death rate

Gap widens based on education

MIKE STOBBE

AP Medical Writer

ATLANTA (AP) — The gap in cancer death rates between American college graduates and those who only went to high school is widening, the American Cancer Society reported Friday.

Among men, the least educated died of cancer at rates more than 2½ times that of men with college degrees, the latest data show. In the early 1990s, they died at two times the rate of most-educated men. For women, the numbers aren't as complete but suggest a widening gap also. The data, from 2007, compared people between the ages of 25 and 64. People with college degrees are seeing a significant drop in cancer death rates, while people who have spent less time in school are seeing more modest improvements or sometimes none at all, explained Elizabeth Ward, who oversees research done by the cancer society.

The cancer society estimates there will be nearly 1.6 million new cancer cases in the United States this year, and 571,950 deaths. It also notes that overall cancer death rates have been dropping since the early 1990s, but the decline has been greater for some groups more than others.

Experts believe that the differences have to do with education, how much people earn and where they live, among other factors. Researchers like to use education as a measuring stick because death certificates include that information. "Just because we're measuring education doesn't mean we think education is the direct reason" for the differences among population groups, Ward said.

That said, the cancer death rate connection to education is striking.

For all types of cancer among men, there were about 56 deaths per 100,000 for those with at least 16 years of education compared to 148 deaths per 100,000 for those with no more than 12 years of school.

For women, the rate was 59 per 100,000 for the most educated, and 119 per 100,000 for the least educated. The gap was most striking when it comes to lung cancer.

People with a high school education or less died at a rate four to five times higher than those with at least four years of college education, the new report said. More than a third of premature cancer deaths could have been avoided if everyone had a college degree, cancer society officials estimated.

Studies have suggested that less educated people are more likely to do risky things with their health. □

The cancer society estimates there will be nearly 1.6 million new cancer cases in the United States this year, and 571,950 deaths. It also notes that overall cancer death rates have been dropping since the early 1990s, but the decline has been greater for some groups more than others.

Internet braces for '.Vegas' and other not-coms

JOELLE TESSLER

AP Technology Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Coming soon to the Internet: website addresses that end in ".bank," ".Vegas" and ".Canon."

The organization that oversees the Internet address system is preparing to open the floodgates to a nearly limitless selection of new website suffixes, including ones in Arabic, Chinese and other scripts. That could usher in the most sweeping transformation of the Domain Name System since its creation in the 1980s.

More than 300 suffixes are available today, the bulk of them country-code domains, such as ".uk" for the United Kingdom and ".de" for Germany.

Hundreds or even thousands more suffixes could be created, categorized by everything from industry to geography to ethnicity.

The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers will meet Monday in Singapore (Sunday evening in the U.S.) to vote on its expansion plan for domain names. If ICANN approves the plan as expected, new domains could start appearing late next year.

The new system could bring innovative branding opportunities and allow all sorts of niche communities to thrive online.

But businesses worry that they'll have to grab their brand names before others do. New suffixes could also create confusion as consumers navigate a Web with unfamiliar labels.

It's also possible that the new names won't make much difference because many people these days rely on search engines and mobile applications to find what they are looking for online. Consumers don't type Web addresses into browsers nearly as much as they did 15 years ago when talk of a domain name expansion began.

"Most people don't pay a lot of attention to website addresses anyway these days," said Danny Sullivan, editor of Search Engine Land, a website that covers the search industry.

From a technical standpoint, domain names tell computers on the Internet where to find a website or send an email message. Without them, people would have to remember clunky numerals such as "165.1.59.220" for "ap.org."

The monikers have grown to mean much more, however. Amazon.com Inc. has built its brand on its website address, while bloggers take pride in running sites with their own domain names.

ICANN has already allowed two major expansions of the addressing system. In 2000, it approved seven new domains, including ".info" and ".biz." It began accepting new bids again in 2004. It has

approved and added seven from that round, including ".xxx" for pornography sites this past March.

Under the expansion plan now before ICANN, future applications would be streamlined and open to all companies, organizations and individuals.

That has set off a virtual land rush.

A group of entrepreneurs in Las Vegas is vying to operate a ".Vegas" suffix. They have the city's endorsement and consider ".Vegas" a way to unify local merchants, entertainment venues, residents and even businesses beyond Sin City. Former professional hockey player Ron Andruff is working with international sports federations to bid for ".sport." He expects sports leagues, teams, athletes, equipment makers and fans to want websites with a suffix that defines them better.

Two groups — one backed by the Sierra Club and the other by the World Wildlife Federation — are separately seeking the right to operate a ".eco" suffix.

Big business will stake claims, too. Printer and camera maker Canon Inc. plans to apply for ".Canon". Trade groups for bankers and financial-services companies are working together to explore bids for ".bank", ".insure" and ".invest" for their member companies.

New domains offer fresh branding possibilities for companies to identify themselves online in "a more relevant or a more localized" way, said Pat Kane, a senior vice president at VeriSign Inc., which operates ".com" and ".net."

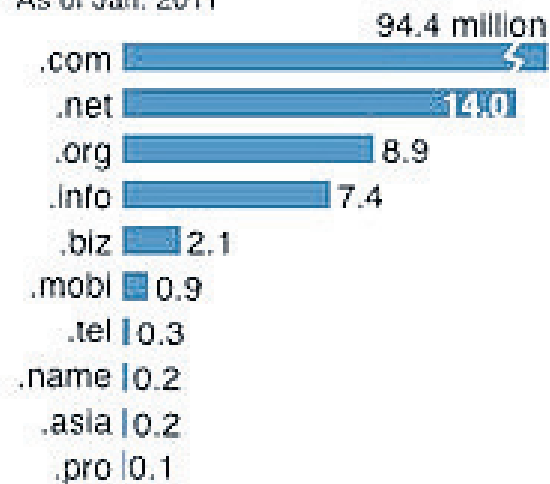
Although suffixes added over the past decade

Domain names

Next week, a non-profit which oversees the Internet addressing system will vote to possibly expand on the current 22 generic domain names.

Registered domains

As of Jan. 2011



SOURCE: Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers AP

Graphic shows the total number of Internet addressing domains such as .com, .info and .museum through Jan.

Associated Press

Beyond '.com,' names for Antarctica, Urdu and more

By ANICK JESDANUN

AP Technology Writer

Unless you're a Luddite, you're bound to know of ".com," the Internet's most common address suffix.

You've also probably heard of ".gov," for U.S. government sites, and ".edu," for educational institutions.

Did you know Antarctica has its own suffix, too? It's ".aq."

The aviation industry has ".aero" and porn sites have ".xxx." There's ".asia" for the continent, plus suffixes for individual countries such as Thailand (".th") and South Korea (".kr"). Thailand and Korea also have addresses in Thai and Korean. There are currently 310 domain name suffixes — the ".com" part of Web and email addresses. Now, the organization that oversees the system is poised to accept hundreds or thousands more. Possibilities include ".invest" and ".Canon."

In the early days of the Internet, each computer network simply had its own name. A hierarchical naming structure called the Domain Name System was created in the mid-1980s as the Internet grew. With such a system, Columbia University could have "Columbia.edu" and

Columbia Sportswear Co. could have "Columbia.com." The Columbia Foundation could have "Columbia.org."

The system began with scores of country-specific domains and a handful of generic ones, including ".com," ".gov" and ".mil." International organizations got ".int" a few years later, in 1988.

That was largely the system in place until 2000. That was when the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers, formed just two years earlier to oversee the address system, approved the creation of seven names, including ".info," ".aero" and ".museum." ICANN opened bidding again in 2004; seven have been added to the system from that round, including ".xxx."

Meanwhile, ICANN approved ".ps" for the Palestinian territories (in 2000) and ".eu" for the European Union (in 2005). That's because those two were on a country-code list kept by the International Organization for Standards, which in turn takes information from the United Nations. More recently, ICANN approved country names in languages other than English — so India has ones for Hindi, Urdu and five others. □

haven't been as popular as ".com," there has been demand for an expansion because nearly all of the most desirable ".com" addresses have been taken. There are more than 94 million registered under ".com."

The thinking is that new businesses setting up shop online might prefer a simple name that ends in ".bank" rather than "TheBankDownTheStreetFromTheSupermarket.com." The expansion plan before ICANN had been delayed, however, largely because of concerns that new suffixes could infringe on trademarks and copyrights. There's also worry that new suffixes could deceive consumers, create new platforms for hate groups or lead to website addresses ending in obscenities. ICANN spent years crafting guidelines and creating procedures for objecting to applications. ICANN already has approved rules for some countries to claim suffixes that spell their names in languages other than English. The new plan opens that up to Chinese and Arabic versions of ".bank" and ".sport" as well. □

Put a cork in the Internet bubble talk — for now

By **MICHAEL LIEDTKE**

AP Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — It's starting to feel like a 1999 flashback. Internet companies — some of them profitable, some not — sense a golden opportunity and are lining up to go public this year. But here's something to keep in mind as the latest case of Internet fever grips Wall Street: It's still nowhere close to the giddy days of the dot-com boom, when investors bought stocks as impulsively as lottery tickets. Technology stocks today are the cheapest in more than nine years, at least judging by one benchmark for appraising companies.

This year could yield the most initial public offerings of technology stocks since 2000. But the venture capitalists who bankroll high-tech startups aren't pouring money into the Internet like they once did. And even



Tim Westergren, foreground left, Chief Strategy Officer & Founder, and Joe Kennedy, foreground right, CEO & President, of Pandora internet radio, watch as their company begins trading on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange Wednesday, June 15, 2011.

(AP Photo/NYSE, Dario Cantatore)

rapidly growing Internet companies LinkedIn Corp. and Pandora Media Inc. have lost some of their luster after dazzling investors when they went public in recent weeks.

All those factors signal that cooler heads are prevail-

ing, especially with the global economy on shaky ground.

So far this year, 28 of the 74 IPOs completed in the U.S. have been by technology companies, according to IPO investment advisory firm Renaissance Capital.

If, as expected, another 31 tech IPOs are completed by the end this year, it will be the most from the sector since 2000.

The growing enthusiasm for Internet services reflects how far the Internet has come since the dot-

com boom. An estimated 2 billion people worldwide have Web access now, about eight times as many as in 2000. High-speed Internet connections have become common, turning the Web into an entertainment center as well as an information hub. And mobile devices have made it possible to stay connected from almost anywhere at any time.

"I don't see a bubble," venture capitalist Marc Andreessen, best known as founder of the pioneering Web browser Netscape, told The Associated Press in March.

Andreessen has investments scattered all over the Internet, mostly in companies that are steadily increasing their revenue. Some of them are even profitable, virtually unheard of during the late 1990s. That's why he thinks it's logical for more money to be flowing into one of the most promising parts of the U.S. economy.

"I think people are confusing success with a bubble," Andreessen said. "Maybe stuff is just working."

But well-established technology companies, including many that helped build the Internet into what it is today, have fallen out of favor. To gauge just how far, consider the price-to-earnings, or P/E, ratio of technology stocks in the bellwether Standard & Poor's 500 index.

The P/E number divides a company's stock price by its earnings per share. The higher the P/E, the more likely a stock is overvalued by the market. Based on earnings reported for the past year, the figure for S&P 500 tech stocks is 14.1, the lowest since March 2002. Before the Great Recession started in December 2007, it was 25.4. Before the Internet bubble blew up, it was 66.4.

Even Google, the Internet's most profitable company, hasn't been getting any love of late. Though its earnings are still rising at a robust rate, the company's stock has fallen more than \$100, or 18 percent, so far this year. □

Marketplaces dot Havana for new private vendors



Regla Gonzalez sells cooking tools at a former parking used as a makeshift market in Havana, Cuba, Friday, June 17, 2011. The application of a group of economic reforms to enhance work independent from the State, forced Cuba's government to transform different spaces in new markets.

Associated Press

ANDREA RODRIGUEZ

Associated Press

HAVANA (AP) — Marketplaces full of vendors hawking everything from food to religious items may be common sights across Latin America, but they're springing up for the first time in the Cuban capital as the island's Communist government opens its tightly controlled economy to some private-sector activity.

Nearly 140 official points of sale in abandoned structures, parking lots and crumbling old buildings have been established in recent months and are accommodating about 2,600 independent vendors, the Communist Party newspaper Granma reported Friday. The number of markets "should grow steadily," Luis Carlos Gongora, vice president of Havana's Provincial Administration Council, told the newspaper.

Cuba only recently began licensing a broad spectrum of

private sector activity, giving rise to a nascent and growing class of self-employed people.

Former health care worker Andres Lamberto Diaz, who took out a license for to sell clothes, shoes and jewelry, said he pays 40 pesos (\$1.60) a day — on top of his taxes and license fees — for the right to set up shop on a lot where few traces remain of what was an old mansion in busy Central Havana.

"Things are organized here, and the flow of people along the avenue is good," Diaz said. "Nevertheless, I think it's a lot to pay each day for the space." Official salaries average about \$20 a month in Cuba.

Faustino Agramonte, the state administrator of the market, said it houses 21 independent merchants, and officials are looking at possibly expanding into a little-used parking lot on the site of another collapsed building.

Buckets, spatulas, cheese graters and soup pots hung from one stand Friday. Colorful clothing was on offer at another, strung up underneath a canvas tarp to protect it from the intense tropical sun. The market launched in early 2010.

Under the new rules governing independent businesses, many people have set up shop in their own houses. Not all Cubans, however, live in spaces appropriate for home businesses, and many are taking to the streets. The government has accommodated the trend by creating authorized vending zones where sellers can gather.

Officials are considering adjustments to the tax structure for independent operators, Granma said.

Mired in deep financial woes and hamstrung by inefficiency in state-run businesses, Cuba announced last August that it would be implementing major changes in hopes of rescuing its troubled economy. From the end of 2010 through May, more than 200,000 Cubans became licensed independent workers.

President Raul Castro insists that the new private-sector activity is meant to "update" Cuba's socialist model, not replace it with the free market. □

Searching for airfares doesn't have to be a gamble

By SAMANTHA BOMKAMP
SCOTT MAYEROWITZ
AP Airlines Writers

NEW YORK — Searching for airfares often seems to be a game passengers are set up to lose.

Prices change from day to day, even minute to minute. Scouring multiple websites for the best deal can be overwhelming. And after you book, there's no guarantee that you got the best price.

"You just don't know when to pull the trigger. It's not like buying anything else I can think of," said George Hobica, founder of Airfarewatchdog.com.

Harriet Levy paid \$179 for a recent round-trip flight on American Airlines between New York and Fort Lauderdale, Fla. Sitting just one row behind her, Shirley Harrison paid \$215. A few rows back, Ellis and Dianne Traub paid \$317 each. There were at least 12 fares on the flight, ranging from \$169 to \$360.

"There's no rhyme or reason to it," Harrison said.

Fares can fluctuate significantly in just a few hours. One Delta flight from New York to Los Angeles jumped from \$755 to \$1,143 from a Friday to Saturday in late April, then fell to \$718 on Sunday.

The flight was one of a dozen The Associated Press tracked over three months for a July 16-22 vacation. The No. 1 finding: Avoid booking tickets on weekends. It's the most expensive time to buy.

There's no way to guarantee the best fare. But before booking, travelers should heed this additional advice:

- Book on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. That's when airlines most often offer sales.
- Buy in advance, but not too early. The best time is four to six weeks before traveling. In general, prices for any given flight are highest eight to 10 weeks and two to three weeks in advance.
- Embrace social media. Airlines are giving more benefits, like exclusive sales, to travelers who in-

teract with them on Twitter and Facebook. Those specials are often gone within hours.

- The so-called discount airlines — JetBlue, AirTran, Southwest and Frontier — adjust their fares less frequently than other airlines, so you can feel more confident locking in a price. But their prices aren't always the lowest. Researching multiple airlines' fares is the only way to get a good deal.

It wasn't always this complicated.

Before the airlines were deregulated in 1978, airfares were approved by the government. Prices were consistent and printed in timetables.

But it wasn't always this cheap, either. The average round-trip ticket in 1978 cost almost \$600 in today's dollars, compared with \$316 today. Because air travel was something of a luxury, planes were often less than half full.

Deregulation allowed airlines to set fares and routes on their own. In the early '80s, American Airlines started selling empty seats at a steep discount. The aim was to fill up planes and compete with new discount airlines such as PeopleExpress.

To prevent business travelers from trading down to cheaper tickets, the airlines required that fliers buy two to three weeks in advance and spend a Saturday night at their destination. The discount airline ticket was born.

Today, sophisticated computer programs analyze travel data and set a range of ticket prices so airlines can get the most money out of each flight. Prices are generally higher for seats sold at the last minute, which are usually bought by business travelers. Refundable tickets tend to be the most expensive, and cheap fares come with lots of restrictions.

Other factors go into the price, too: How fast are tickets selling compared with previous years? Is there a conference or special event in the destina-



In this file photo taken Oct. 11, 2010, an American Airlines airplane takes off at Miami International Airport in Miami. Searching for airfares often seems like a game passengers are set up to lose. Prices change from day to day, even minute to minute. Scouring multiple websites for the best deal can be overwhelming. And after you book, there's no guarantee that you got the best price. Associated Press

tion city? Fares are often adjusted to match other airlines' prices.

But there's still a great deal of human intervention.

"To a degree, it's trial and error," said Greg Aretakis, vice president of revenue production at Frontier Air-

lines.

There can be as many as 20 prices on any given flight. Airline executives say that all that helps them boost revenue by 3 to 6 percent. If they price tickets too low, the airline can lose money. If prices are too high, seats

go unsold.

"If that seat goes out empty, we can't put it on the shelf and sell it the next day," said American Airlines spokesman Tim Smith. "A seat that goes unfilled is like a banana that instantly spoils on takeoff." □

Oil falls 2 percent, to \$93 a barrel

CHRIS KAHN
AP Energy Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Oil dropped to about \$93 per barrel for the first time since February as the European financial crisis kept investors on edge about the international banking industry and the prospects for global economic growth this year. Benchmark West Texas Intermediate crude for July delivery lost \$1.94, or 2 percent, to settle at \$93.01 per barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

Oil has retreated about 6 percent this week. In London Brent crude, which is used to price many international oil varieties, declined 81 cents to settle at \$113.21 per barrel on the ICE Futures exchange.

"There's still a case for fairly lofty prices later this year, but right now, there's not that much confidence that the economic picture will improve," said Tom Kloza, publisher and chief oil analyst at Oil Price Information Service.

Oil tumbled this week as



Greece struggled to generate support for critical financial reforms necessary to continue bailout payments from the European Union.

Riots broke out over austerity measures, and credit agencies warned that the country's financial troubles could mean big banking losses in other countries.

In addition the dollar rose this week as the euro and other currencies fell.

That helped push down oil. Crude is priced in U.S. currency and tends to fall as the dollar rises and makes oil more expensive for investors with foreign money. Oil demand has been fall-

ing in the U.S., and the Energy Information Administration said that trend continued this week.

EIA said Wednesday that petroleum consumption fell 3.2 percent when compared with levels from a year ago. Wholesale gasoline demand was up 0.5 percent. That was the first increase in weeks.

In other Nymex trading for July contracts, heating oil gave up 2.05 cents to settle at \$2.9833 per gallon and gasoline futures lost 0.34 cent to settle at 2.9460 per gallon. Natural gas fell 8.7 cents to settle at \$4.325 per 1,000 cubic feet. □

Craig Ferguson's late show shines in hall of mirrors

MAIA DE LA BAUME

© 2011 New York Times

PARIS – In a back room at the Palace of Versailles, Marie-Antoinette's secret lover was informing her that their love affair had to come to a dramatic conclusion.

"I've discovered I'm gay," he said, though this news didn't seem to throw her. The couple then agreed to go shopping in Paris. Or rather Craig Ferguson, the talk show host who was impersonating Marie-Antoinette's lover, and the actress Kristen Bell, who was playing a modern version of the queen, with a beret, a red-striped shirt and dark jeans, agreed to a Parisian detour.

For his sixth year as host of



Craig Ferguson and Kristen Bell during filming of the CBS show "The Late Late Show With Craig Ferguson" in Paris. Ferguson, swapped his Los Angeles studio for the more flamboyant decor of the Hall of Mirrors at Versailles and taped a week of the show in Paris.

(Tomas Van Houtryve/The New York Times)

having lived three years in the Sixth Arrondissement. His 2006 book, "Between the Bridge and the River," even includes some French history, he noted.

"Le Late Late Show Avec Craig Ferguson," as the show has been renamed for the occasion, is a stripped-down version of the usual format, with the episodes to be broadcast in August. In Los Angeles about 80 people work on the production, said Michael Naidus, one of the producers. Here the crew has been reduced to about 20, half French and half American, including Josh Robert Thompson, the voice of Ferguson's robot sidekick, Geoff Peterson.

Ferguson, who's as caustic off camera as he is on the air, actually described the experience as exciting.

"I hope what I do has an art to it, and as an artist you have to try new things and keep yourself entertained," Ferguson said in an interview, speaking on the lower level of a double-decker tourist bus traveling to Montmartre from Versailles. The first days of taping in Paris were something of a frenzy, with Ferguson and his team zipping among a dozen of the city's monuments and tourist havens, including the Eiffel Tower and the Moulin Rouge.

On Monday he appeared on "Ce Soir Avec Arthur," a French variety and talk show with pronounced similarities to Ferguson's, as U.S. audiences may know: It emerged in December that Arthur, a stand-up comedian here whose real name is Jacques Essebag, had borrowed a great deal from "The Late Late Show," starting with the opening-credits sequence. Rather than take offense, Ferguson invited his imitator to appear alongside him in Los Angeles. On Ferguson's reciprocal visit, he performed a monologue in French and disco-danced with Arthur.

"He inspires me, but my show has nothing in common with his," Essebag said, adding: "I don't have the same sense of humor. Mine is Jewish." □



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"The Late Late Show With Craig Ferguson" on CBS – he calls the show "quasi-Brechtian vaudeville" – Ferguson wanted to try something new, and so for the past week he has swapped his Los Angeles studio for the more flamboyant decor of the Hall of Mirrors at Versailles; played not to ticket-holding audience members, but passers-by in Montmartre; and performed his irreverent opening monologues in front of just a director, a writer, an editor and a handful of technicians.

"This is the first time in the history of this show that we've been allowed outside," Ferguson joked on the air before the trip. "Historically, when Americans don't know what to do next, they go to Paris. Benjamin Franklin is like: 'What am I going to do now? I'll go to Paris!'"

Ferguson is all but unknown in France, where talk shows are often regarded as an American concept. In Montmartre, French observers looked at Ferguson with a certain amusement. "I don't know him," said Patrick Fucher, a waiter at a cafe. "But he looks American in his spirit, a nice and friendly American."

Of course, though he is now a U.S. citizen, Ferguson's brogue attests to his Scottish roots, and he admits to

Famed bassist Burrell broke color line

William Porter

© The New York Times 2011

The Denver Post DENVER – Charlie Burrell's big left hand cradles the neck of the upright bass like a baby, his right hand coaxing a cascade of notes from the instrument's wooden belly: alternately popping and loping across the strings, always in perfect time.

The glowing end of a cigar – Dominican robustos, baby, better than Cubans – juts from the musician's mouth. Eyes closed, he cracks a beatific smile. His face, though creased with age, seems adrift in time.

He could be back in the Paradise Club in Detroit, the city where he grew up in poverty. Or with the San Francisco Symphony Orchestra in the early 1960s, when he was its first black player. Or on the stages of Club Algeria or Lil's After-Hours – backing jazz legends Billie Holiday, Erroll Garner and Charlie Parker – during Denver's jazz heyday.

But Burrell is in his northeast Denver home, amid his studio's memorabilia and sheet music. A stand holds the score to "Lush Life," the Billy Strayhorn classic. Yes, Burrell met him too.

"I started playing the bass when I was 12 years old," Burrell said. "It was so big I had to stand on a Coca-Cola box to reach the upper part of the neck. And I literally pulled it around in a little red wagon. Got some teasing over that." At 90, Burrell is both a pioneer – he has been called the Jackie Robinson of classical music – and one of the few surviving links to the glory days of midcentury jazz. He taught or mentored famed jazz bassist Ray Brown and his own niece, multi-Grammy winner Dianne Reeves.

Documentaries have lauded him. He owns a wall full of awards and proclamations, to which he rolls his eyes and says, "Enough!" in a mock bellow. Occasionally, he recorded – "Man on First Bass."

For all his musical reach, Burrell spent most of his career in Denver, where his influence still resonates, said David Abosch, principal oboist and musical director at the Denver Symphony Orchestra (later the Colorado Symphony Orchestra), where he worked alongside Burrell for 50 years. "He was tremendously dedicated and expected others to be just as dedicated. He didn't mince words. And he's a fast friend."

Most important to his fans, Burrell still plays the random gig around Denver. He remains a natty fixture on stage, as befitting someone who wore a tuxedo for classical performances and, back in the day, pegged pants for his jazz sets. □

'Duke Nukem Forever' is released after 14 years

SETH SCHIESEL

© 2011 New York Times

The very first thing you do in "Duke Nukem Forever" is relieve yourself.

That's right. After 14 tortured years in development, after being endlessly revised and restarted by no fewer than four different studios since the Clinton administration, "Duke Nukem Forever" finally opens with a first-per-

utes. Only two spots – a battle against a hulking alien atop the Hoover Dam and a fighting sequence in which normally inconsequential enemies loom terrifyingly large – were fully, enjoyably engaging. The rest of the time was a chore and a bore. And I got the game free.

In the pantheon of artistic endeavors ruined by a

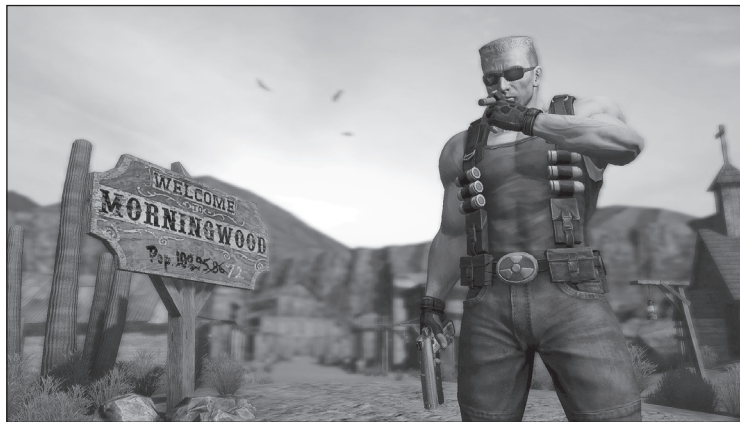
this was what you were expecting back in 1997.

Now let us show you what we've really come up with." And then the game would start over with panache, state-of-the-art graphics, creative design, finely honed pacing, exciting foes, witty writing and an overall sense of joy – in short, everything that is utterly absent now.

That moment never arrived. As I trudged along, my hope gave way to despair and no small bit of bewildered resentment toward the endless cast that participated in this pathetic wreck of a project. And that's because, after all this time, that's what "Duke Nukem Forever" still resembles: an unfinished project rather than what it should have been: the pathbreaking sequel to one of the most beloved games of all time, 1996's "Duke Nukem 3D."

Ah yes, 1996. The original Xbox was not even a gleam in Bill Gates' eye. (Microsoft would release it five years later.) Back then, the idea of a first-person shooter on a console was beyond the pale. (The first decent console shooter, GoldenEye 007 for Nintendo 64, didn't arrive until 1997, and it really took the introduction of Halo on the Xbox in 2001 to show the way forward.)

Any serious gamer played mostly on a PC back then (some of us still do), and "Duke Nukem 3D" was a revelation. □



An undated handout image from the video game, Duke Nukem Forever. Duke Nukem Forever, a sequel to the trailblazing 1996 video game Duke Nukem 3D, has been released after 14 years of development.

(Gearbox Software via The New York Times)

son view of a men's urinal being put to its intended purpose.

It rarely becomes more entertaining.

There is no easy way to put this: "Duke Nukem Forever" is shockingly, embarrassingly bad. Not ironic bad. Not campy bad. Not even fascinating bad. Just bad, as in unpleasant to play and watch.

As in please save your money.

Over the dozen or so hours of the main campaign, I had fun for about 20 min-

combination of hubris, too much money and too little discipline, "Duke Nukem Forever" now joins the likes of "Ishtar," "Waterworld," and "Spider-Man: Turn Off the Dark." Sadly, Forever's only real value is to game designers, as a lasting lesson of what not to do.

For the first hour or so, I honestly thought the whole thing was a big in-joke – that the curtain would finally part and the real game would begin. I kept hoping that the game would eventually say: "Ha ha, we know

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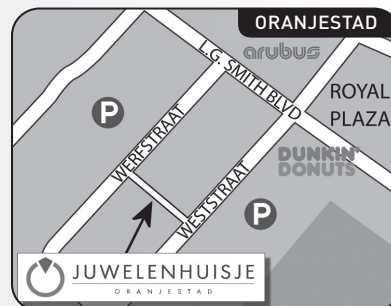
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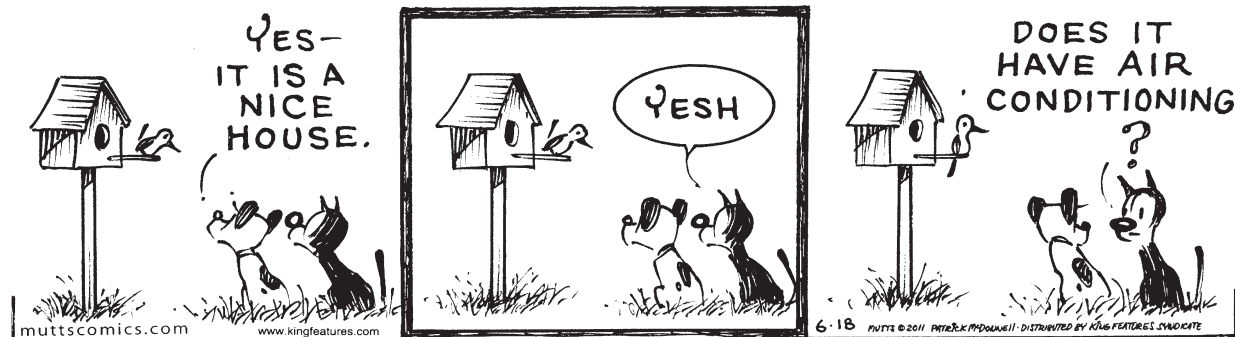


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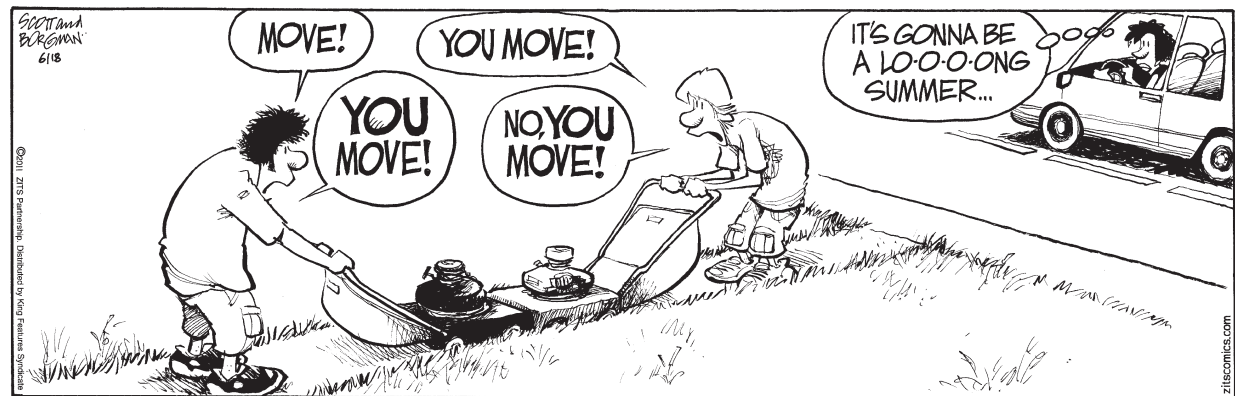
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

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5								
		9	6		8	4		3
		8				1		
7								5
		6				2		
9		4	7		2	5		
								9
	2			8		6		

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

6/18

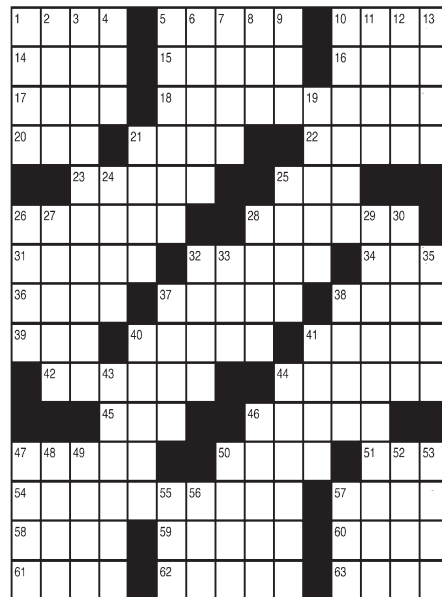
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

1	3	4	5	2	9	7	6	8
8	6	2	1	7	4	9	5	3
5	9	7	6	8	3	1	4	2
4	7	9	2	6	8	5	3	1
6	5	3	9	1	7	8	2	4
2	1	8	3	4	5	6	7	9
7	8	1	4	5	2	3	9	6
3	2	5	8	9	6	4	1	7
9	4	6	7	3	1	2	8	5

ACROSS

- Relocate
- Climb
- Defeat; thwart
- "So be it!"
- Don Juan, e.g.
- Too
- Repair
- Leaving one's own country to live elsewhere
- Fire _;
- stinging insect
- Rex or Donna
- Snapshot
- Bumbling
- Scottish "no"
- Tune
- Intense fear
- Pile up
- Root beer _;
- ice cream treat
- Cot or crib
- Carry
- Georgia's fruit
- Depressed
- Dined
- Ebony
- Idaho's capital
- More nervous
- Arrested
- Actress Lupino
- Items hidden away
- Seaweeds
- Fill a suitcase
- Fish eggs
- Lost in fantasy
- Cry
- Thick drink
- Spend foolishly
- Knickknack
- Likelihood
- Plant-
- destroying bug
- Mrs. Truman



6/18/11

Friday's Puzzle Solved

PAN	FABLE	PEEN
RIOT	AVAIL	RAVE
ODOR	MELEE	EVER
ENAMORING	SEND	
GOUT	AYE	
RACERS	SONATINA	
ELUDE	SHACK	DUD
AIRY	WORSE	BIRD
REV SHOUT	LOOSE	
SNEAKING	BASTED	
DIP	PASS	
TRAM	POTENTIAL	
WADI	ILIAD	EXIT
AJAR	NIECE	RENO
SAME	GORED	SET

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6/18/11

DOWN

- One of the Three Bears
- Foreboding sign
- Like a breezy room
- Conclusion
- Tired
- One of Santa's reindeer
- "Nonsense!"
- one's time; waits patiently
- Dollar
- San Francisco ballplayers
- Owner's paper
- "Guilty" or "Not guilty"
- Armful of laundry
- Precious metal
- Shove
- Is in the red
- Shade trees
- Defunct airline
- Knock
- Overalls part

'Tales of the City:' When we were young and gay'

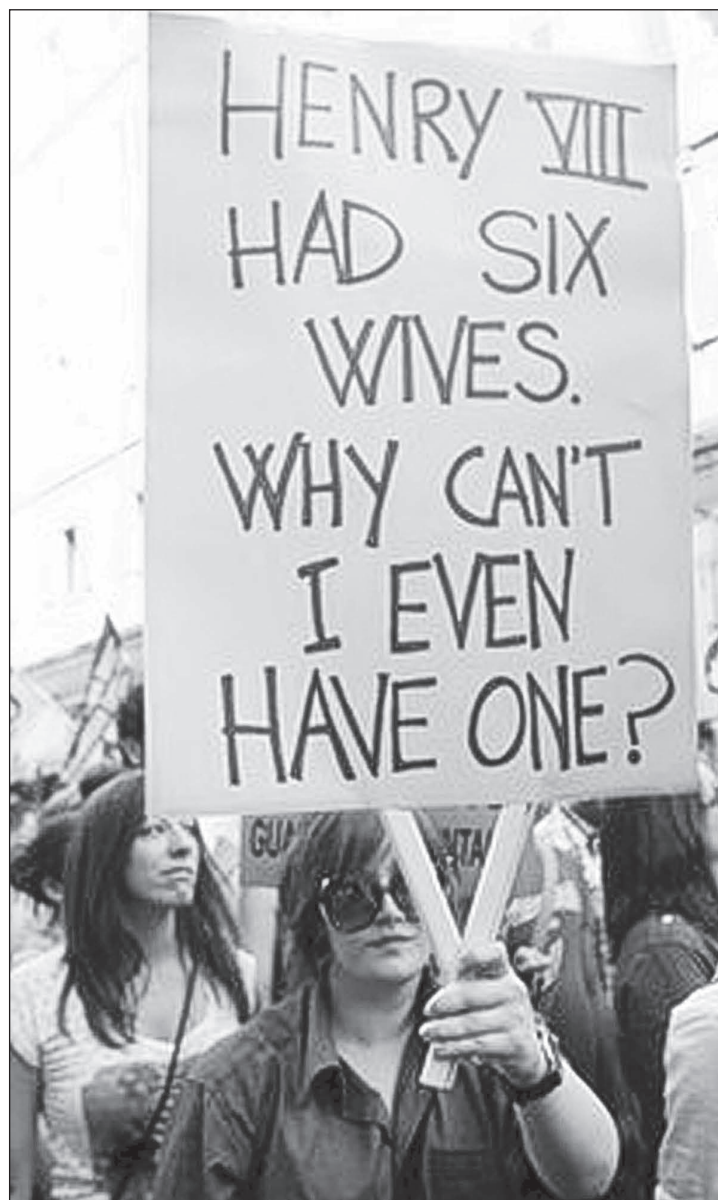
CHARLES ISHERWOOD

© 2011 New York Times

SAN FRANCISCO – The intoxicating abundance of Armistead Maupin's beloved "Tales of the City" novels is one of their signal pleasures. Reading these intertwined stories of men and women searching for sex, love and themselves in the heady, indulgent atmosphere of San Francisco in the 1970s is like dipping into an inexhaustible bag of M&Ms, with no risk of sugar overload. The stories – of ardent friendships and surprising liaisons, startling family secrets and scandalous crimes – keep piling up and tumbling together, and somehow too much is never enough.

This addictive amplitude becomes something of a liability, unfortunately, for the lively and likable but overstuffed new musical adaptation of Maupin's big-hearted portrait of a time, place and people, which is having a festive hometown premiere at the American Conservatory Theater. (Items in the gift shop include "Tales of the City" commemorative condoms: three for \$6.) Although it is mostly drawn from just the first of the novels, with a few happy endings and shocking revelations imported from the second, the show cannot comfortably accommodate all the book's significant characters and their curlicued collective destinies in the standard musical theater running time of under three hours.

Just about all the lovable, hateable and hoot-able gang is here: gay, straight and transsexual, lustily on the prowl or searching for enduring love, pampered by exorbitant wealth or straight from middle-class Cleveland. But despite the frequent interludes of soul-baring song, we never come to know them as intimately or as memorably as we do in the books, originally serialized in The San Francisco Chronicle, or the terrific British miniseries



Mary Birdsong and Wesley Taylor in "Tales of the City," in an undated handout photo. A musical version of Armistead Maupin's "Tales of the City" is premiering in San Francisco. (Kevin Berne via The New York Times)

seen on PBS in 1994. When the curtain falls, it's as if you had been to a happening party and met lots of fabulous people, but kept getting whirled from one to the next without having enough time really to connect.

The musical boasts an accomplished creative team. The book is by Jeff Whitty, who depicted a later generation of young urban adventurers in the popular, Tony-laureled musical "Avenue Q." Whitty is reunited with that show's director, Jason Moore, while the score is by Jake Shears and John Garden of Scissor Sisters, the hip band whose music draws affectionately but not slavishly on signature sounds of the decade in question, from Elton John to Sylvester to KC and the Sunshine Band. Larry Keigwin, an acclaimed

modern-dance choreographer known for his pop sensibility, provides the frisky if sometimes generic choreography.

Although the disco ball twirling as the overture began gave me pause – these silvered orbs have become harbingers of dramaturgical dreariness to me in recent years – the authors do not use superficial nostalgia as a serotonin trigger in the way so many new jukebox musicals today do. The show splashes about in the period-kitsch playground with happy abandon – there's a scene at a roller disco, and the costumes by Beaver Bauer (a Maupin-worthy name) are a parade of sartorial sense-memory evocations for anyone who lived through the era – but the show never devolves into a generic 1970s theme night. □

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San Nicolas

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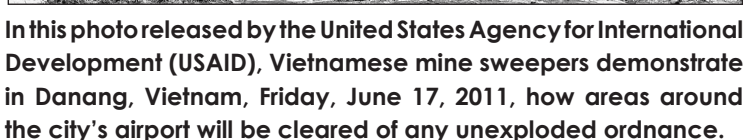
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Vietnam starts joint Agent Orange cleanup with U.S.

HANOI, Vietnam (AP) — Vietnam on Friday started the first phase of a joint plan with former enemy the United States to clean up environmental damage leftover from the chemical defoliant Agent Orange, a lasting legacy from the Vietnam War.

The work concentrates on a former U.S. military base in central Vietnam where the herbicide was stored during the war that ended more than three decades ago. It marks the first time the two sides will work together on the ground to clean up contamination.

A statement Friday by the U.S. Embassy in Hanoi said Vietnam's Ministry of Defense will begin sweeping areas around the Danang airport for unexploded ordnance. It will then work with the U.S. Agency for Inter-

national Development to remove dioxin from soil and sediment at the site, which is expected to begin early next year.

U.S. aircraft sprayed millions of gallons (liters) of the chemical over South Vietnam during the war to destroy guerrilla fighters' jungle cover.

Contamination from dioxin — a chemical used in Agent Orange that has been linked to cancers and birth defects — has remained a thorny topic between the former foes as relations have thrived in other areas.

Washington was slow to respond to the issue, arguing for years that more research was needed to show that the wartime spraying caused health problems and disabilities among Vietnamese.

"As Secretary of State Hillary Clinton remarked while visiting Vietnam last October, the dioxin in the ground here is 'a legacy of the painful past we share,' but the project we will undertake here, as our two nations work hand-in-hand to clean up this site, is 'a sign of the hopeful future we are building together,'" said Virginia Palmer, the U.S. Embassy's charge d'affaires, in a speech during the kickoff ceremony. The \$32 million project will remove dioxin from 71 acres (29 hectares) of land at the Danang site where a 2009 study by the Canadian environmental firm Hatfield Consultants found chemical levels that were 300 to 400 times higher than international limits.

Two other former U.S. air bases in the southern locations of Bien Hoa and Phu Cat also have been identified as hotspots where the defoliant was mixed, stored and loaded onto planes during the war, allowing spilled dioxin to seep into the soil and water systems. The war ended on April 30, 1975, when northern communist forces seized control of Saigon, the U.S.-backed former capital of South Vietnam.

The country was then reunified under a one-party communist government. Vietnam's Red Cross estimates up to 3 million Vietnamese have suffered health-related problems from Agent Orange exposure.

The U.S. has said the actual number is far lower and that other health and environmental factors are likely to blame for many illnesses and disabilities. □

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The advertisement features a black background with white text. At the top, the words "PURE & SENSUAL" are in a large, bold, sans-serif font, with "MASSAGE FANTASY" in a slightly smaller, bold, sans-serif font below it. A horizontal line of ten grey squares separates the title from the main text. Below this, "LOOKING FOR COMPANIONSHIP WHILE IN ARUBA" is written in a bold, sans-serif font. To the left, a bulleted list of services is provided. To the right, a bulleted list of offerings is provided. In the bottom left, text describes safe tours and a 3-hour package. In the bottom center, the phone number "CALL: 561-5515" is prominently displayed. In the bottom right, a circular graphic contains the text "CALL ANYTIME".

[illegible]

King Mohammed VI proposes limited steps to democracy

STEVEN ERLANGER
© 2011 New York Times

In a major effort to try to respond to calls for more democracy and accountability, King Mohammed VI of Morocco announced proposed constitutional changes Friday night that would reduce his nearly absolute powers and pick a prime minister from the largest party elected to Parliament as head of the executive branch.

But his plans fell consider-

It would mean a "government emerging through direct universal suffrage," the king said in an eagerly awaited speech on national television. The changes, he said, would "make Morocco a state that will distinguish itself by its democratic course."

The king would remain head of the Islamic faith in Morocco and be called "commander of the faithful." But a reference to the king in the current constitu-

has been relatively little violence or state repression of the demonstrators.

As the Arab Spring has rolled through the Middle East and North Africa, monarchies have withstood the demand for change better than secular autocrats. But even Morocco, on the western edge of the region, has felt the wind.

The king, who is considered a reformer and a more gentle ruler than his feared father, King Hassan II, has



Pro-government supporters hold a picture of Morocco's King Mohammed VI and Moroccan flag to celebrate immediately after the king's speech ended in Casablanca, Morocco, Friday, June, 17, 2011. Morocco's king delivered a landmark speech Friday night presenting new constitutional amendments that could transform the North African nation into a constitutional monarchy with a more powerful elected government.

(AP Photo/Abdeljalil Bounhar)

ably short of the constitutional monarchy that many protesters have demanded and would leave the king with absolute control over the military and religious matters.

The proposals will be put to a national referendum July 1, instead of in September as originally planned.

The prime minister, who would be formally called "president of the government," would be able to appoint government officials and ministers and would have the power to dissolve Parliament. The judiciary would be an independent branch, whereas the king has previously headed the council that approves all judges.

tion as "sacred" would be replaced by the expression: "The integrity of the person of the king should not be violated." Islam would remain the state religion, but there would be a new guarantee of religious freedom.

The king, 47 and in power since 1999, has been facing growing pressure to respond to calls for democratic change and a constitutional monarchy from the February 20 Movement for Change, which began on Facebook and has carried out a series of rallies in major cities. While thousands attended the rallies, they did not compare in size to those elsewhere in the Arab world, and there

been criticized for stalling more far-reaching reforms after terrorist bombings in Casablanca in 2003.

He has also been accused of allowing the circle of advisers and schoolmates around him to become wealthy from state contracts and monopolies, and of tolerating too much corruption.

But the proposals he unveiled Friday were a considerable effort to try to get ahead of the calls for change.

In the past few months, he has also released about 200 Islamist prisoners who had been jailed in the round-ups that followed the 2003 bombings. □

Paychecks as big as Tajikistan

GRETCHEN MORGENSON

© 2011 New York Times

When does big become excessive? If the question involves executive pay, the answer is "often."

But despite the reams of figures about pay in any given year, shareholders often have to struggle to put those numbers into perspective. Companies typically hold up pay from previous years as a benchmark, but just how this paycheck stacks up against, say, a company's earnings or stock market performance is rarely laid out.

Investors can run the numbers themselves, of course, but it's a pretty laborious process. As a result, pay for most public companies' top executives exists in a sort of vacuum, as far as investors are concerned. Shareholders know they pay a lot for the hired help, but a lot compared with what?

Answers to that question come fast and furious in a recent, immensely detailed report in The Analyst's Accounting Observer, a publication of R.G. Associates, an independent research firm in Baltimore. Jack Ciesielski, the firm's president, and his colleague Melissa Herboldsheimer have examined proxy statements and financial filings for the companies in the Standard & Poor's 500-stock index. In a report titled "S&P 500 Executive Pay: Bigger Than ... Whatever You Think It Is," they compare senior executives' pay with other corporate costs and measures.

It's an enlightening, if enraging, exercise. And it provides the perspective that shareholders desperately need, particularly now that they are being asked to vote on corporate pay practices.

Let's begin with the view from 30,000 feet. Total executive pay increased 13.9 percent in 2010 among the 483 companies where data was available for the analysis. The total pay for those companies' 2,591 named executives, before taxes, was \$14.3 billion.

That's some pile of pay, right? But Ciesielski puts it into perspective by noting that the total is almost equal to the gross domestic product of Tajikistan, which has a population of more than 7 million.

Warming to his subject, Ciesielski also determined that 158 companies paid more in cash compensation to their top guys and gals last year than they paid in audit fees to their accounting firms. Thirty-two companies paid their top executives more in 2010 than they paid in cash income taxes.

The report also blows a hole in the argument that stock grants to executives align the interests of managers with those of shareholders. The report calculated that at 179 companies in the study, the average value of stockholders' stakes fell between 2008 and 2010 while the top executives at those companies received raises. The report really gets meaty when it compares executive pay with items like research and development costs, and earnings per share.

The report, for instance, compared earnings per share with cash pay – just salary and bonus, if there is one. It identified 24 companies where cash compensation last year amounted to 2 percent or more of the company's net income from continuing operations.

Topping this list is Allergan Inc., the health care concern whose top executives received, after taxes, an estimated \$2.6 million in salaries last year. That amounted to 50 percent of what the company earned from continuing operations, the report said.

Caroline Van Hove, an Allergan spokeswoman, said the salaries were large when compared with net income in 2010 because one-time charges reduced earnings significantly that year; in previous years, she noted, earnings were far higher than executives' pay. □

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